

Iran reports firing at U.S. 'copters

BAHRAIN (AP) — Iran said Sunday its forces opened "direct fire" on U.S. navy helicopters that were carrying out reconnaissance operations Friday ahead of a convoy of U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti ships in the Gulf, forcing the American helicopters to flee. An Iranian naval commander, speaking in an interview reported by the state-run Tehran Radio, said the incident occurred at 9:25 p.m. (1725 GMT) Friday, which would be around the same time or shortly after an Iraqi warplane fired two cruise missiles at Iran's Sirri Island, within 13 kilometres of the coast. The commander, whose name was not given, said the incident happened when the U.S. helicopters were operating over the islands of Sirri and neighbouring Abu Musa along with the oil platforms of Salman and Nasr. Navy pool reporters who were with the convoy that night said that American helicopters were up at the time and that the sound of anti-aircraft guns was detected from Sirri after the Iraqi missile exploded there. But they also said that everything happened within a span of about 20 minutes and it was not clear whether the Iranians were firing at the U.S. helicopters or in reaction to the Iraqi raid.

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Masri receives envoy's credentials

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri Sunday received a copy of the credentials of the newly appointed British ambassador to Jordan, Anthony Reeve. Reeve arrived in Amman early February to take up his new post in Amman.

Ozal to visit Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal is to pay an official visit to Iraq, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported Sunday. INA said the preparations for the visit were discussed Sunday during a meeting between Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassio Ramadan and Turkish ambassador to Iraq. The agency did not say when Ozal was due in Baghdad or the nature of talks he is expected to hold with Iraqi officials. Ozal met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo on Sunday (See page 2).

Assad receives Afghan message

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad received a message Sunday from Afghan leader Najibullah about developments in his country, an Afghan official said. The message was delivered by Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil, who is briefing Islamic countries following Moscow's announcement last week on troop withdrawals. Wakil has already visited Kuwait and Libya and will leave Monday for Jordan before returning home on Feb. 17, the official said.

Gemayel in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel arrived Sunday for talks with Sudanese leaders on bilateral cooperation, regional issues and the tension in war-torn southern Sudan. Gemayel was scheduled to meet with Sudanese Supreme Council head Ahmad Al Mirghani later Sunday. He is expected to leave Monday.

Howe due in Moscow

LONDON (AP) — British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe said Sunday that arms control, a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan and human rights will be the chief issues he will raise in his talks with Soviet leaders this week. Howe was flying to Moscow later Sunday for a meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. Howe is also to meet with Soviet Communist Party leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Greek Cypriots vote

NICOSIA (R) — Greek Cypriots voted in presidential elections Sunday, with no clear victor expected after the most hotly-contested campaign in 28 years of independence. Political analysts saw little chance that President Spyros Kyprianou or any of his three main opponents would win an overall majority, and a run-off vote between the two top contenders appeared certain for next Sunday. Polls closed at six p.m. First trends were likely before midnight (2200 GMT) with the result known on Monday morning.

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Hundreds of anti-occupation protesters clash with soldiers in Majdal Shams

Anti-Israel revolt spreads to Golan

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Arabs in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights joined the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Sunday and Israeli soldiers clashed with many protesters in the Golan as well as the West Bank and Gaza where anti-occupation demonstrations continued.



Israeli soldiers club and kick an arrested Palestinian in the Gaza Strip

Police used tear-gas to disperse hundreds of stone-throwing Druze, members of an Islamic offshoot who demonstrate annually on Feb. 14, the date when Israel announced that it was annexing the Golan Heights. Several villagers and a police officer were injured during fierce clashes in Majdal Shams, largest of the four villages in the Golan Heights, residents said. Police said 20 Druze were arrested in the village.

It was the first Druze protest since the uprising began on Dec. 9 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. About 13,000 Druze and 6,000 Jewish settlers live in the Golan Heights overlooking the Syrian border, where from the other side Druze residents shouted words of encouragement at their demonstrating Druze brethren. Police closed off access to a "shouting hill" where residents on both sides often communicate. "We are demonstrating to show the Israelis we don't want to be part of their country. We are Syrian and we want to go back to Syria," said one of several stone-throwing boys in Majdal Shams.

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3 Fateh members killed in Limassol car blast

Palestinian ship expected to sail from Cypriot port today

From Lami K. Andoni in Athens

PALESTINIAN deportees, guests and journalists are expected to leave Athens Monday for Larnaca to board a ship that was rented by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on a symbolic voyage to return Palestinians expelled from their homeland by Israel.

Informed Palestinian sources said that the PLO had chartered two planes to carry more than 100 Palestinian deportees, 300 journalists and 200 guests to the Cypriot port of Larnaca, where the "ship of return" is said to be ready to leave.

The voyage, which Israel wants aborted, was originally scheduled to start last Tuesday but was repeatedly postponed as the PLO failed to charter a vessel. The PLO accused Israel of threatening shipowners to abort the journey. But Sunday PLO officials

said the organisation had found a vessel and that all preparations had been made for the trip. The PLO representative in Athens, Fuad Bitar, asked journalists during a press conference Sunday to be ready to leave their hotels at 11 a.m. Monday. But he refused to disclose details. Sources told the Jordan Times that the PLO's plan was to take the delegates straight to the airport for onward flight to Larnaca. According to the same sources, the PLO was able to rent a ship in Larnaca and preferred to sail from Cyprus, instead of waiting for the ship to arrive in Athens.

The sources expected the voyage to Haifa to take a shorter route and not to stop at the Egyptian port of Port Said as was originally scheduled.

Limassol assassinations
PLO officials here did not directly link the assassination of three Fateh officers in Limassol in a car bombing Sunday with the

preparations made for the "ship of return." Palestinian officials accused Israel of carrying out the assassination and said the Israeli operation was aimed against the "western sector" in Fateh headed by deputy of PLO forces Khalil Al Wazir. The "western sector" is directly in charge of the Israeli-occupied territories and masterminds commando operations against Israel.

The three assassinated Fateh officers were believed to have been in daily touch with the "Unified Command of the Uprising in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip for Coordination." "We do believe, however, that the timing of the assassination was deliberately meant to create confusion within the PLO and disrupt the voyage of return," a Palestinian official said. "Yet, at the same time we have no doubt that Israel's operation was

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King ends state visit to Austria

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor have ended a four-day state visit to Austria during which the King held talks with Austrian leaders on the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, the Iran-Iraq war and means of boosting bilateral cooperation.

The King and Queen were seen off Saturday night from Vienna by Austrian President Kurt Waldheim and senior Austrian officials, Jordan Television said. Earlier Saturday, the King met at the Austrian Foreign Ministry heads of Arab diplomatic missions accredited to Austria and briefed them on the outcome of his recent tour of European countries and on the talks he had with leaders of these countries.

The King stressed the importance of his visit saying that it coincided with the Palestinian uprising "which reflects the urgency for holding an international peace conference to be attended by all parties involved in the Middle East conflict and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council."

King Hussein voiced satisfaction and happiness at the outcome of his talks with the European leaders and said they expressed full understanding of the Arab position.

The King also said that his efforts at the international arena come in implementation of the resolutions of the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman last November.

King Hussein added that the Arab Nation was "united on the need to establish peace in the region and to find solutions to the two major causes in the region — the Palestine question and the Iran-Iraq war — through holding an international peace conference on the Middle East and implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 598 calling for an immediate end for the Iran-Iraq war."

The King said Arab-Austrian relations were very strong. Austria has a great role to play in the international efforts to establish peace, he said. "Despite the pressures against the Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, our deep respect and appreciation for his role on the international arena will not be affected at all," the King said. "These pressures will not affect our appreciation for his highly valued efforts to serve international peace during his term in office as United Nations secretary general," the King added.

Regent, Hayden discuss Palestinian uprising, Gulf war and bilateral ties

By Sa'd G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday held talks with Australian Foreign and Trade Minister Bill Hayden on the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, the Iran-Iraq war and means of boosting bilateral cooperation. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted the Crown Prince as praising Australia's continued efforts towards better cooperation with Jordan, especially in the field of research and joint ventures. The meeting was attended



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, holds talks with Australian Foreign and Trade Minister Bill Hayden (centre) in a meeting attended by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri Sunday (Petra photo)

Rifai delivers King's message to Assad

AMMAN (J.T.) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Sunday received a message from His Majesty King Hussein on the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza and the latest developments in the region.

The message was delivered to Assad in Damascus by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai who paid a brief visit to the Syrian capital for the purpose.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the message also dealt with the King's contacts in the international level. The King held talks with the leaders of Italy, the Vatican, West Germany, France and Austria this month and the message he sent to Assad was believed to deal with the outcome of these discussions.



Syrian President Hafez Al Assad meets with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai in Damascus Sunday (Petra photo)

Rifai's four-hour meeting with Assad Sunday was attended by Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Za'bi and Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa.

(Continued on page 3)

Likud wants Labour to leave government

TEL AVIV (R) — An aide to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Sunday he hoped Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' Labour Party would withdraw from Israel's coalition government over divisions on a new U.S. Middle East peace plan.

"It will be very good if they (Labour) decide to leave the government because they are no longer real partners or loyal to the (coalition) agreement they signed," Shamir aide Yossi Ahimeir told Reuters. Shamir, leader of the right-wing Likud bloc, and Peres are split over their approaches to Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, including a new U.S. plan.

"We hope they will leave the government voluntarily. These brutal attacks on the prime minister are unprecedented. Nobody has seen in any democracy a foreign minister attacking the premier and nevertheless remaining in the government," Ahimeir said.

Peres said last week that the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip might have been avoided if Shamir had not blocked his moves to bring about an international peace conference last year.

In an angry rebuttal, Shamir accused his foreign minister of leaking secret documents to the media and undercutting Israel's position in negotiations.

Labour ministers have proposed moving up Israel's general elections scheduled for November 1988 or withdrawing from the coalition government over the stalemate peace process.

Asked if Labour would work for early elections, Energy Minister Moshe Shahal told reporters after the weekly cabinet session: "There is certainly a possibility. I cannot say until we have heard about the meetings and attitude of the prime minister and his party."

He said Labour could pull out of the government, but it was still unlikely. "The government is divided evenly into two sections. Which 50 per cent will have the possibility to convince the other part will depend on the talks between Secretary Shultz and the government," Shahal said.

Oman backs Soviet call for U.N. Gulf force

MUSCAT (R) — Oman would support deployment of a multinational naval force to the Gulf, including Soviet ships, if it helped make navigation safer, a senior Omani official said Sunday. But Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Ibn Alawi Ibo Abdullah said Muscat opposed an arms embargo against Iran to make it accept a ceasefire in its seven-year war with Iraq.

Ibn Alawi told Reuters in an interview that Oman wanted to examine details of the Soviet proposal for a multinational force and consult other interested nations. "But we see that if such an idea could be practical to contribute to the safeguarding of navigation in the Gulf, the idea should be supported," he said.

The United States, with which Oman has close ties, has been pressing for months for an arms embargo because of Tehran's refusal to accept a ceasefire ordered by the United Nations.

It wants to stop the Soviets establishing a permanent naval presence in the Gulf and rejects an international force.

Asked whether the Soviets were trying to establish a permanent presence in the Gulf, Ibo Alawi replied: "There is nothing (that) can stop the Soviet Union or other nations from having a presence in the Gulf or other international waters."

"In fact, the Soviet Union has maintained a low presence in the Gulf and as long as such a presence comes into the context of peace we should not be worried."

Ibn Alawi said the push for an arms embargo was unrealistic. "We are working hard with the U.N. efforts to close the gap between the two belligerent states. We are rather sceptical of other ways and tools to achieve that effect."

"There is an ambiguity and confusion in the positions of the Security Council member states. Therefore we see that the idea of an embargo might not be practical at this time," he said.

Back-peddalling Shamir on collision course with American initiative

By Paul Taylor
Router

TEL AVIV — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's Middle East mission faces two early obstacles — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and the Palestinians.

Shultz is due to visit Israel and other Middle Eastern states from next week to press proposals on the future of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, where at least 56 Palestinians have died in widespread anti-occupation uprising over the last nine weeks.

Shamir initially welcomed the American peace initiative, but is now back-peddalling frantically, fearing that Shultz is trying to move too far, too fast.

Palestinians, their aspirations heightened by the uprising, say the U.S. proposals do not go far enough, omitting Palestinian

rights to self-determination and statehood. They reject any attempt to restrict their political rights to a limited "autonomy" the only solution Shamir is prepared to consider.

Washington has not published its proposals, but Israeli officials say they call for an international meeting in April to launch direct Arab-Israeli talks on interim "self-rule" in the occupied territories, where local elections would be held soon.

Negotiations on the final status of the territories would begin at the end of this year, according to reports.

In a closed-door speech in Washington, Shultz emphasised the basis of any peace settlement must be "territory in exchange for peace."

But an aide to Shamir said the prime minister, whose

right-wing Likud bloc claims Israeli sovereignty over the entire West Bank and Gaza, rejected any such basis. "The Likud standpoint is known. We are opposed to

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), foresaw five years of limited Palestinian "self-rule" with negotiations on the final status to begin no later than the third year.

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every attempt to exchange territories for peace. We do not believe this is a practical arrangement." Labour and Social Affairs Minister Moshe Katsav said after Sunday's cabinet meeting.

Shamir opposes quick moves. Another aide said Shamir, in a letter to Shultz, opposed speeding up the negotiating timetable for Palestinian "autonomy" outlined in the 1978 Israeli-Egyptian Camp David accords.

That agreement, rejected by all other Arab states and the

The new U.S. proposal suggests three years of "self-rule" with talks on a definitive settlement to begin within the first year.

"No one will seriously sit to conduct negotiations on a temporary agreement when he knows that in another six or seven months, he will have to discuss the permanent status," Katsav said.

Shamir's aide also confirmed the rightist prime minister rejected the idea of an early international meeting to launch direct Arab-Israeli negotia-

tions. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of the Labour Party has warmly embraced the American initiative.

Likud-Labour row

As the Shultz visit approaches, relations between the rival leaders of Israel's tattered "national unity" cabinet have reached a low ebb.

In an angry outburst Friday, Shamir publicly accused his foreign minister of leaking secret documents to the media and undercutting Israel's position in the negotiations.

"How can I negotiate when my partner is constantly running to the other side and telling them: 'Don't listen to Shamir, whatever he's selling I'll sell cheaper'," he complained. The first shots of next November's Israeli election

campaign were fired. Labour ministers retorted by charging that Shamir had blocked all peace efforts, driving the Palestinians to revolt out of despair.

The Jerusalem Post, which supports Labour's position on peace, said in an editorial: "If Mr. Shultz is indeed serious in his determination to start a new American peace initiative... he must find a formula that will deprive Mr. Shamir of his virtual veto power which has so far effectively torpedoed any moves towards peace negotiations."

But many Israeli commentators doubted whether the Reagan administration could bring about in its last eight months what it failed to achieve in nearly eight years — a breaking of the Middle East peace deadlock.

Ministry says 27 killed by Israelis in January

AMMAN (Petra) — The Israeli occupation authorities killed 27 Palestinians and injured 950 others in the occupied Arab territories during January 1988, a report issued by the Ministry of Occupied Territories Information Department has said.

The report added that the Israeli authorities arrested 5,000 citizens and issued sentences, ranging between imprisonment for several years and imprisonment for a few months, against 227 citizens.

The report added that the Israeli authorities also deported four Palestinians to Lebanon and decided to deport five others and to demolish 22 houses belonging to Arab citizens.

The Israeli authorities confiscated 800 dunums of Arab land in Nabulus governorate during January, thus bringing to 2,753,276 dunums the total area of land

seized by the Israeli authorities since the 1967 Middle East war.

Last year the Israelis expropriated 13,693 dunums of land in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the report noted.

The report noted that Israel has spent a total of \$20 billion on construction of settlements since 1967 and is planning to build 2,000 housing units for Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank, in addition to the construction of a new settlement south of the West Bank town of Hebron.

The Israelis also announced that they will go ahead with a project for opening a new street, which will divide the West Bank village of Al Kader, near Bethlehem into two parts.

The project implies that 50 per cent of the village land be confiscated and that 20 houses be demolished for the purpose of opening the new 8 kilometre road.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, receives the Canadian parliamentary delegation at the Royal Court Sunday (Petra photo)

Regent receives Canadian delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday received at the Royal Court the Canadian parliamentary delegation, currently on a visit to Jordan, as part of a fact finding mission which will also take them to Egypt and the occupied Arab territories.

The Canadian delegation delivered Prince Hassan a message from Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney addressed to His Majesty King Hussein.

Prince Hassan reviewed with the delegation members the current situation in the Middle East,

the present uprising in the occupied Arab territories and the Iran-Iraq war.

Prince Hassan reaffirmed Jordan's stand vis-a-vis finding a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Crown Prince reiterated Jordan's call for holding an international Middle East peace conference, to be attended by all parties concerned and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

Prince Hassan also reviewed with the delegation the economic

situations in the region, in general, and Jordan in particular, and stressed the need for continued excellent cooperation between Jordan and Canada.

The audience was attended by the secretary general of the Royal Court, the Canadian ambassador to Jordan and Jordanian Ambassador to Canada.

Also on Sunday, the delegation was received by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri.

Later Sunday the delegation left for Cairo at the end of a four-day official visit to Jordan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent receives chamber board

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday received at the Royal Court chairman and members of the Amman Chamber of Industry's board of directors and congratulated them on their election for the chamber's board.

Prince Hassan called on them to intensify their joint efforts in the interest of the Jordanian economy. The audience was attended by Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Tabba'a.

Lower House to meet Tuesday

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayed Sunday called the House for session Tuesday to discuss a number of subjects referred to the House by the government.

Cabinet endorses JEA budget

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has endorsed the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) budget for the current fiscal year.

The Cabinet also endorsed protocol of cooperation in sports and youth affairs, concluded between Jordan and Indonesia, during the visit of Indonesian minister of youth to Jordan.

Temperatures to drop

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Meteorology Department Ali Abanda Sunday said that the country will be affected by a depression, centred now south east of the Island of Crete, and is moving slowly towards the area. Abanda added that as a result of the depression which will be centred over Cyprus this morning, clouds will accumulate over the area and rainfall is expected in the afternoon. A gradual drop in temperatures is also expected in the afternoon, Abanda added.

JD 570,000 allocated for roads

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Agriculture Secretary General Salem Al Lawzi Sunday said that the government has allocated JD 570,000 for constructing agricultural roads in the various governorates of Jordan. Lawzi and Ministry of Public Works Secretary General Khalaf Hawari, at a meeting here Sunday, distributed the allocations among the eight governorates of Jordan.

Symposium to discuss disabled children

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Social Development Secretary General Mohammad Al Suqour Sunday discussed with Swedish Ambassador to Jordan Lars Lonnback preparations for holding a symposium on the disabled children. The symposium is designed for workers in the field of special education from both the private and public sectors.

Regent confers with Hayden

(Continued from page 1)

by Foreign Minister Taher Masri, Royal Court Secretary General Bassam Saket and Australia's Ambassador in Amman Terry Goggin.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai also met with the Australian minister and discussed with him the current situation in the Middle East, Petra said. It quoted the prime minister as stressing that an international conference on the Middle East represented the only vehicle for a peaceful settlement that would implement U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Rifai also stressed the need for further efforts towards implementing U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for an immediate end to the Iran-Iraq war, Petra said.

Earlier Sunday, Hayden and Masri held talks on the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and the Israeli authorities' oppressive and arbitrary measures against the Arab inhabitants, Petra said.

Both sides exchanged views about the prospects for convening an international peace conference in light of the latest peace moves on the regional and international arenas.

Hayden told a press conference following his talks that the Australian views were "identical with the Jordanian approach which calls for holding a U.N.-sponsored international conference on the Middle East to be attended by all parties involved in the conflict. Such a binding conference will 'determine the processes which eventually lead to

Palestinian people's right to self-determination," he said.

The Australian minister said his country regarded American "involvement" in Middle East peace efforts as inevitable. "In fact, I find it very hard to presume that there could be a successful process unless the U.S. was involved, and also the Soviet Union," he said.

Speaking about recent peace proposals by the American administration and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Hayden said: "We hope that all ideas would be pursued."

Citing his country's concern over the current state of affairs in the occupied territories, Hayden said the situation could only lead to "the detriment of Israel."

Petra said Masri briefed the visiting minister on Jordan's stand vis-a-vis recent efforts towards achieving peace in the region. Masri made a special reference to the Palestinian uprising saying that the revolt should give strong incentives for the international community to bear its responsibility and join efforts towards arriving at a comprehensive settlement.

Petra said Hayden expressed Australia's understanding of Jordan's stand and King Hussein's strenuous efforts for peace.

Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Tabba'a and the visiting minister earlier held talks which culminated in the signing of a new trade agreement.

The agreement entails setting up a joint committee to work as a new mechanism to further diversify and increase the volume of trade between Jordan and Australia.

Jordan, Tunisia sign tax agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Tunisia Sunday signed an agreement, organising taxation and payment of income tax in both countries.

The agreement laid down the criteria governing the imposition of income tax on immovable property and industrial and commercial profits, in addition to the income obtained from sea and air freight, shares, dependent and independent professional services and patent rights.

The agreement also laid down the measures capable of avoiding the double taxation and curbing the attempts to avoid payment of taxes.

The Royal Jordanian and the National Shipping Lines will benefit from the agreement because their revenues are taxable only in Jordan, where their head offices are located.

The agreement will be put into effect as of Jan 1989 after exchange of ratification documents from both countries.

The agreement was signed for Jordan by Income Tax Department Director General Salman Al Tarawneh, for Tunisia by the Tunisian ambassador to Jordan Said Ibn Mustafa.

After signing the agreement Tarawneh expressed hope that the agreement will reflect positively on commercial exchange and economic cooperation between both countries.

Council praises King's efforts for Arab unity

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in the 8th session of Council of Arab Federation for Technical Education (AFTE) Sunday sent a cable of thanks to His Majesty King Hussein for his continuous support of the federation.

In their cable, participants praised King Hussein's serious and sincere efforts to rally the Arab fold and to unite their resources for the advancement of the whole Arab Nation.

The council pledged to employ all resources and capacities to develop technical education in the Arab World.

The council also thanked the government of Jordan for hosting the meetings and for providing the facilities which contributed to the success of the meetings.

Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories and recognition of national rights of the Palestinians.

"We have also discovered that the U.S. administration's intention is to contain the uprising in the occupied Arab lands rather than find a just and permanent solution for the Palestine question," he said.

Sharaa reiterated Syria's demand for a strong international conference on Middle East peace.

Rifai delivers King's message to Assad

(Continued from page 1)

said Saturday it rejected the new U.S. Middle East peace plan presented by Washington envoy Richard Murphy to regional leaders this week.

Sharaa told reporters the plan, which calls for an international meeting in April to pave the way for direct Arab-Israeli talks, was not a definite plan.

"Although the U.S. is speaking about a comprehensive settlement, we had the impression

(during talks with Murphy) the U.S. administration was still thinking of partial solutions. We made it clear that we are against these partial solutions," Sharaa said.

"We do not think there is a real U.S. plan," Sharaa said. "What we got from Murphy during his lengthy talks here showed the U.S. had some ideas which did not take shape yet."

He said Syria affirmed that any solution to the Middle East crisis should be based on complete

Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories and recognition of national rights of the Palestinians.

"We have also discovered that the U.S. administration's intention is to contain the uprising in the occupied Arab lands rather than find a just and permanent solution for the Palestine question," he said.

Sharaa reiterated Syria's demand for a strong international conference on Middle East peace.

Majdal Shams protesters clash with soldiers

(Continued from page 1)

Asked if the protests had any connection with the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, he said:

"Certainly, but the difference is the Palestinians are fighting to win their homeland. We already have ours and it has been taken. We are fighting to be reunited."

The village main street was littered with stones and tear-gas canisters.

The army said Sunday it was investigating a report that soldiers used a bulldozer to bury alive four young Palestinians in a village of the West Bank.

Residents of Salem, near Nabulus, told the Israeli weekly Kol Ha'ir last week that the four were unconscious when they were dug up shortly after being buried by order of an army officer on Feb. 5.

The boys said they were

ordered by troops and West Bank Jewish settlers to remove roadblocks erected as part of a demonstration and then to lie on the ground where they were beaten and covered with earth.

A senior official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said in Tunis Feb. 6 that armed Israeli settlers had buried alive four young Palestinians in the village. The army denied the allegations at the time.

PLO ship expected to sail from Larnaca today

(Continued from page 1)

directed against the 'western sector'," he added.

Two of the assassinated Fatah officers — Marwan Kayali, commander of the Palestinian Jamak commando battalion, and Mohammad Bassam Sultan Al Tamimi, better known as "Hamdi" — were close aides of Wazir. But PLO officials here said that the assassinations would not disrupt the planned voyage.

Greek security forces have tightened measures to ensure the security of the Palestinian officials, deportees and observers here.

Despite the PLO's confirmation that the "ship of return" will sail, scepticism still prevailed here, especially that Palestinian officials refused to disclose any details. Journalists were receiving, until Sunday evening, conflicting and contradictory reports from Palestinian officials. While

some officials confirmed that the PLO had decided that the ship was going to leave from Larnaca others said that another option of waiting for the vessel in Athens was being discussed.

Other Palestinian sources told the Jordan Times that the PLO was still negotiating with an owner of a Greek ship. According to the sources, the owner of ship was demanding that he receive permission to dock at Haifa before entering any charter agreement with the PLO.

Agencies add from Limassol: The three officers of Fatah were killed when their booty-trapped car exploded Sunday.

Police said the bomb went off around noon (1000 GMT), killing the three instantly and destroying the automobile.

In Athens, PLO spokesman Bassam Abu Shanif accused Israel of being behind the slayings.

"Israel started this open war after losing the secret war concerning the ship of return," he said.

Describing the victims as "leading military cadres" in the PLO, he said: "This is a clear proof once more... the Israelis continue their terrorism not only against our population in the West Bank and Gaza, but also elsewhere."

In an official statement, the PLO vowed revenge against Israel.

"They were murdered by the Israeli Mossad secret service," the PLO said in a statement from its Cyprus office.

"This ugly new crime committed by Israeli intelligence will not pass without retribution. The people of Palestine and their revolution know how to teach the Israeli enemy a lesson they will not forget," it said.

Regional meeting urges new strategies, reforms in medical education

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Eastern Mediterranean regional conference for medical education opened under royal patronage Sunday at the University of Jordan, where participants called on reaching a consensus on new strategies and action plans for a reform in medical education in the region.

The objective of the four-day conference, which includes participants from different parts of the Middle East, is to form recommendations on reforming medical education, based on local needs, Dr. Kandil Shaker of the local organising committee said in the opening ceremony.

He added that the task of this meeting is reviewing the national reports from the countries of the eastern Mediterranean.

Kandil explained that the increased need for medical services resulted in a need to reevaluate the medical education system, including the curricula and methods, and remodel them according to each country's needs.

Professor Henry Walton, president of the World Federation for Medical Education based in Edinburgh, Scotland, and initiator of developing the educational policies, said that the task of the federation is to reform medical school education and post-graduate training.

"The federation will constitute a declaration in a conference in August this year after all the six regional recommendations are presented," Walton said.

The World Federation for Medical Education will then present it to the executive board of the World Health Organisation (WHO) to be passed to the World Health Assembly, after which the implementation phase will be carried out by each nation.

"Implementation of the recommendations will be on national, regional and global levels," Walton said, assuring that some of the recommendations requiring political action will receive attention.

Dr. Mahdi Abu Dahab, speaking on behalf of Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh, emphasised that primary health care education must be a major part of the curricula used by medical students. He said that graduating doctors who are able to prevent illnesses are more essential than doctors who cure illnesses.

Abu Dahab added that this conclusion came as a result of statistics on the number of patients visiting primary health care centres around the Kingdom. "More than 95 per cent of the

cases that refer to the health centres are treated there; five per cent are referred to regional hospitals without being sent to central hospitals."

Use of national language

Abu Dahab also called on the conference to consider the importance of teaching medicine in the national language rather than a foreign one — a decision that was taken by the Arab health ministers after extensive studies conducted by the WHO.

Syria was cited as an example of a country that teaches medicine and other fields in its national language, and has been doing so from the beginning of the century.

"Syrian doctors who graduate from their own schools are still capable of specialising in any university in the world, and are able to successfully study in foreign languages. Syrian universities also have access to foreign periodicals," Abu Dahab noted.

He added that there will be obstacles in the "Arabisation" of medical education, but that these obstacles will hopefully be an incentive to reach this goal.

The University of Jordan president, Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, who opened the conference, called on rejoining the Faculty of Medicine and other health faculties to the main university campus to eliminate isolation characteristics of future medical graduates.

Majali said that as a means of reforming medical education, "basic medical sciences should be taught for the sake of the profession and not for their own individual sake. The medical student and the general practitioner would derive such benefit if they follow courses in either clinical or community medicine."

He added that the medical curricula should incorporate community medicine courses to be taught at all levels.

Field study

The president continued to say that he believes professors of clinical medicine should accompany their students to the field more often than is currently being done, in order help introduce students with what is beyond the

school's boundaries. In addition, Majali said, medical instructions should be regarded as a performance of one medical team. "In order to broaden their knowledge and deepen their human feeling, students should follow courses in art, social sciences, law, and so on.

Also speaking at the opening of the conference was Eastern Mediterranean WHO regional director, Dr. Hussein Gezairy. He said that because a doctor's task is "to relieve the sufferings of one's fellow men and women, rich and poor, in a spirit of equity and justice, and to give them guidance on how to prevent unnecessary sickness in the future," medical teaching has to be seriously concerned with promoting and protecting health, preventing disease, and curing illness.

He expressed his belief that doctors must be educated to fight for health as well as against disease.

Gezairy said that medical students should be trained "to be able to plan and be part of a planning team, to manage people and services, to sustain dialogue and encourage cooperation with (and partnership between) health and other sectors, and to enter into dialogue with ordinary people about their basic needs and problems in a language they understand."

He added that they must have the ability to teach people about health, to get people to contribute to preserving and protecting their own health and to generate practical and moral support for activities aimed at improving community health.

Dr. T. Fulop, director of the Health Manpower Development at the WHO headquarters in Geneva, gave a summary of his working paper which deals with the use of medical manpower to achieve health for all by the year 2000.

He said that the key to achieving this goal is primary health care, and that medical students should be trained to perform in this basic field.

"If we want our doctors to be well-educated in primary health care, students must be community-oriented, to be trained in teams, and they must be prepared for problems they are to face by integrating them on problem-basis, using problems relevant to community needs," Fulop suggested. He added that by going outside to be trained, "rather than being lectured to death," they would make responsible and efficient doctors.

Cabinet endorses draft law to promote tourism

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has recently endorsed a draft law to promote tourism in Jordan and has referred it to the Parliament for debate and approval.

The new law — designed to promote tourism, develop tourist resources and increase their contribution to the national economy — provides for the setting up of a higher council for tourism, chaired by the minister of tourism and includes ministers of interior, industry, trade and supply, finance, health, planning, culture and national heritage, director general of the Social Security Corporation, secretary general of the Ministry of Tourism, and three members from the private sector.

The council will be entrusted with drawing up the general policy on tourism and will supervise its implementation.

The council will also propose draft laws or regulations on tourism and will recommend concluding tourist agreements with countries, international organisations and institutions.

Also among the duties of the new council will be the establishment of tourist and hotel training schools and drawing up their programmes and the criteria governing their licensing.

The council will also fix the prices and wages of the various tourist services and will have the power to amend them as and when needed. It will also specify the necessary incentives for marketing and promotion of tourism.

The new law also provided for forming a special committee, which will be designated as "tourist committee," under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Tourism secretary general.

The committee will group representatives for the Ministries of Interior, Supply and Health on its membership, and two representatives from the tourism industry, to be nominated by minister of tourism.

The new law aims at organising, promoting and marketing tourism in Jordan in cooperation with the parties concerned, maintaining and developing tourist sites; encouraging investment projects and providing the well-trained and qualified cadres; supervising the tourist and hotel training colleges and institutions and upgrading their performance, and following up on the implementation of agreements concluded with local and foreign hotel management companies for training and marketing purposes.



CHILDREN'S DRAWING COMPETITION



Energy & Electricity Information & Advisory Centre in Irbid plans to launch a children's drawing competition on subjects pertaining to energy saving and energy rationing.

Conditions:

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- Drawings should be 35 x 28 cm.
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- Drawings should be submitted to the Irbid office through the children's schools or charitable societies by Feb. 28, 1988.

For more information, call the Energy & Electricity Information & Advisory Centre in Irbid, tel. 243647, P.O. Box 46.

Energy & Electricity Information & Advisory Centre, Irbid.

Jordan Times

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Enough vulgarity

AT a time when serious efforts are moving fast to convene an international conference on peace in the Middle East, the likely decision by the United States to close the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) mission to the United Nations could not come at a worse time. All scenarios for holding a peace conference envisage the participation of the PLO in one form or another. Shutting the mouth of the PLO at this stage, when the world is trying to cultivate a sound basis for the PLO's indispensable role in the peace process, is a needless setback to peace in the Middle East. The closure of the PLO mission in New York, coming on the heels of the closure of its information office in Washington, augurs bad for the conference idea. This isolated U.S. stance against an international conference assumes more ominous proportions in view of the world-wide support for holding such a conference as the only viable approach to Middle East peace.

We think the voice of reason will inevitably prevail in the tug of war between Washington and the PLO. The decision of United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to invoke the dispute-settlement procedure set out in 1947 is clearly the only decision that the United Nations can take over this bizarre issue. By asserting that an impasse has ensued over the PLO's presence in New York, the secretary general was forced to seek arbitration in accordance with standing procedure in such situations involving a dispute between the international organisation and the U.S., the host country. No matter how the U.S. will respond to United Nations opposition to its absurd decision against the PLO, it will be first and foremost a political, rather than a legal response. The intolerance manifested by Tel Aviv and Washington towards Palestinian nationalism and the PLO will probably go down in Middle East history as the two principal obstacles to genuine peace. The PLO cannot be coerced towards further moderation by such means. Israel and Washington should stop being so stupid, so hypocritical and so vulgar.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Shultz pursues Camp David

THE U.S. State Department said that Secretary of State George Shultz will arrive in the Middle East around Feb. 24 to try to revive the peace process. At the same time U.S. analysts cast their doubts about the prospects of Shultz's moves which call for direct negotiations that would ultimately lead to autonomy rule for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Although no details about Shultz's plan have been disclosed, its general outlines as presented by these analysts indicate that it is no more than a carbon copy of that included in the Camp David accords which has been rejected by the Arabs and which failed to bring Israel and Egypt closer together. If the views of these analysts are true, then it is clear that Washington is still determined to swim against the current and against the unanimous views of the international community of nations which demand an international conference for achieving a just and durable Middle East settlement. If Shultz insists on reviving the question of autonomy rule, then his new initiative in the area will be doomed to failure. The autonomy rule idea as drawn up by the Camp David accords tends to place more obstacles in the path of a durable peace rather than help the different parties reach a lasting settlement, guaranteeing a total Israeli withdrawal and the return of the rights and the lands of the Palestinian people.

Al Dustour: Shultz brings new plan

IT has been confirmed that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will be making a tour of the Middle East region later this month during which he will carry a new plan for reviving the Middle East peace process. Although there have been contradictory reports and ideas about the new plan, it is clear that the U.S. administration is determined to revive its own "peace efforts" following a deadlock that lasted almost four years. There is no doubt that the current popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories has prompted the U.S. administration, which is in the last phase of its mandate at the White House, to play a role in stimulating diplomatic efforts and moves leading towards a settlement. The U.S. move was also prompted by a failure on the part of the Israeli government and its occupation forces to put down the current uprising and the on-going world-wide condemnation of Israeli practices against the Arab population. Israel which is now totally impotent in the face of the Arab revolt and world-wide anger is split on the question of occupation; and has entrusted its Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of playing the role of accepting the American plan which is opposed by its Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. We have little faith that the new U.S. plan will be successful in view of the situation inside Israel and since the U.S. administration has lost all credibility in our region.

Sawt Al Shaab: Iran-Israel connection

IRAN and Israel have reportedly agreed on a transaction which could be detrimental to the Arabs at a time when the uprising in the occupied Arab territory against Israeli oppression continues and more Arabs fall victim to Israeli crimes and atrocities. Reports said that Iran has agreed to barter its thousands of Jews, who would settle in Israel, for badly needed arms with which the Tehran regime will pursue the fight against the Arabs. In this transaction Iran would be able to maintain its war and its aggression on the Arabs, which serves Israel's purposes, and at the same time Israel will have more manpower at its disposal to recruit troops for putting down any uprising in the occupied Arab territory. The Iranian regime which continues to reject U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 to end the war with Iraq is clearly determined to pursue its expansionist objectives in the Arab World. With the arms it hopes to get from Israel, Iran plans to perpetuate its mad and devastating war in the Gulf region, regardless of the thousands of Muslim people that could be killed in the fighting, and the material loss for the Arab and Iranian people. Iran's rulers who have been committing atrocities against their own people are now embarking on a new crime against humanity.

Beware of Americans bearing plans

By Waleed Sadi

I THINK the Arab World should be on maximum guard these days especially in the wake of the launching of the so-called new American initiative, lest the disinformation campaigns associated with it sow more distrust and suspicion among the Arab countries, governments and peoples alike. As the recent U.S. scheme is already dubbed a "bag of mixed ideas," it must be treated as such as its fallouts are already causing more harm than good. It certainly succeeded in confusing the world at large especially the parties directly concerned with the Palestinian case about the real intentions that lie behind the initiative and more so about its objectives. Upper most on the minds of the Arab World is whether the whole new American exercise is just an effort to absorb the after-effects of the Palestinian uprising and diffuse the situation there. This much Prime Minister Zeid Rifai has already said in the clearest possible terms when in an interview with the London based Mideast Mirror journal he described the newest American belated adventure into Middle Eastern diplomacy as sheer "gimmicks to defuse the popular uprising in the occupied territories and assist Israel in coping with the situation." A few days later, Mr. Rifai casted even more doubts about the whole U.S. initiative when he reaffirmed that Jordan will never waver over its commitments to convening an international on-going conference with the participation of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council in addition to the concerned Arab parties including the PLO. On a previous occasion connected with the events in the occupied territories Mr. Rifai confirmed that Jordan is open-minded on the mechanics and modalities of the PLO participation in such a conference which could take the form of an independent

party or a co-partner with the Jordan in the shape of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. These declarations by Jordan were intended to allay any fears or suspicion about the clear and real Jordanian intentions and perspectives with regard to the flurry of political activities that ensued from the Palestinian uprising. Thus Jordan is on record that it will not entertain any dubious or questionable alternatives to the international conference format no matter how the bait is sugar-coated.

And while the newest American plan continues to construct a fertile climate of suspicion and distrust in the region and has succeeded in extenuating the environment of doubt that surrounds the whole peace process in the Middle East, no one has succeeded thus far in delineating with precision its principal features beyond referring to them as still subject to the dynamics of "give and take" among the parties concerned with the Palestinian case and the Arab-Israeli conflict. And concurrently with the precipitous news reports deliberately lamdered to give the impression that the Arab parties and Israel have given the green light to the U.S. novel proposals, there are still solid news reports that the Arab parties still cling to the principle of a full-fledged international conference and that the Israeli prime minister has already torpedoed three fourths of the U.S. scheme, whatever it is.

This leads to questions: Would it not have been wiser, more functional and considerably more operational if the talk about the American plan was withheld until this American offspring completed its gestation period? Is it not more likely that the U.S. is heading for another political miscarriage in the Middle East simply because its newest fetus has been tampered with too much and too

prematurely by too many instruments and interferences? Has it not crossed the U.S. administration's mind that anything coming from Washington now will be a suspect if for no reason other than that the Reagan administration is now a lame duck administration? Where was the U.S. all those passed eight years and why just now we witness sparking new American initiatives? Is it conceivable that the U.S. has been caught by surprise and was literally flabbergasted with the events which have unfolded in the West Bank and Gaza Strip? A super high-technology country as the U.S. which is capable of detecting the smallest of tremors, literally and figuratively, anywhere in the world cannot be presumed as surprised by the Palestinian uprising. What is even more troubling is the fact that such an American peace plan offers Israel, especially Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir ample opportunity to play for time to diffuse the situation in the occupied territories and to pull the carpet from under Shimon Peres and his party. By a modest stretch of the imagination, the latest U.S. peace plan adventurously or inadvertently has come to the rescue of no one other than the Likud Party in Israel. In the final analysis it is a desperate effort to resuscitate the self-rule formula as deeply engraved in the Camp David accord's lime stone. As Shakespeare would have said: what's in a name? That which we call a self-rule, by any other name would smell as bad!

To be fair, my comments are also based, perhaps prematurely, on the proliferation of interpretations that the American peace plan has been accorded. I could be totally wrong for being hasty but I think the U.S. was doubly more wrong in not treating this whole exercise in a more delicate and sensible manner.

Palestinians in Israel may feel the backlash

By Israel Shahak

AS THE CRISIS in the occupied territories and particularly in the Gaza Strip continues, the role of the Palestinians who are Israeli citizens becomes more important than ever. This role and the reaction to it by the Jewish extreme right (not only Kahane but also Sharon) can have very important consequences.

It should be remembered that although they are subjected to many discriminations, the Palestinians who are Israeli citizens enjoy the right to vote in elections to the Knesset and (in most cases) to the municipal councils, and have wide rights of political organisation, demonstration and freedom of expression, which, while not being as great as those enjoyed by Israeli Jews, are nevertheless considerable. However, what makes those rights so important is the role they play in Israeli political life.

The political picture, particularly since the 1981 elections, is characterised by the very rigid support enjoyed by the two great camps into which Israeli Jews are divided. One includes Likud, all religious parties, and the right-wing extremists such as the Tehiya Party; the other includes the Labour Party, together with everybody else. It should be made clear that this deep and real division concerns primarily what may be called "Jewish affairs." In

the Labour Party, most of the politicians and the majority of the voters can have the same opinions about the occupied territories or the Arab countries as the majority of Likud (except Sharon and his few supporters). This is because the occupied territories are regarded by the great majority of Israeli Jews as falling within foreign politics, except when the number of Israeli Jews being killed at least equals the number killed in traffic accidents. The Palestinians or Lebanese who are killed interest only a small minority, and even though this minority is stronger in the general public than in the Knesset, there is immeasurably greater interest

to pass the "Who is a Jew" law are the best attended events in the Knesset, practically the only occasion when all the members attend. The cinema issue in Jerusalem (on the question whether the cinemas can open on Sabbath Eve) draws many more demonstrators on both sides than the horrifying oppression in the occupied territories. These are the facts of life in Israel, and much as I deplore the attitude of those for whom the right to attend a cinema or a theatre is more important than the murder of Palestinians, their political significance cannot be ignored.

On these "Jewish questions," the Israeli Jews are deeply polarised, and all polls and other researches point to the conclusion that after the age of about 22-25, people don't pass from one of the two big camps into another. Comparison of the voting results of 1981 and 1984, together with numerous other data, all suggest that real changes take place only between parties of the same basic opinions on "Jewish questions," and that the number of the young people who form a different opinion than their parents (and afterwards stick to it) and so "pass" to the other camp is about equal.

However, at this point we should distinguish between the Israeli Jews and the total of Israeli voters of whom about 15

per cent are Palestinians. Among all the Israelis, the camp of the Labour Party and everybody else on the left has a slight majority of about 55 per cent, as is reflected in the composition of the Knesset. This is wholly due to the Arab vote, of which about 40 per cent goes to Labour and to other left-wing Zionist parties, about 50 per cent to Hadash (the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality headed by the Israeli Communist Party) and the Progressive List for Peace, and only about 10 per cent for Likud and the Jewish religious parties. In the Israeli Jewish community, Likud, together with its allies, has a clear and stable majority of at least 55 per cent.

This situation, which was pointed out by a few after the 1984 elections, became a matter of intense and increasing public debate in Israel. It became apparent to the public that the fact that Peres became prime minister in 1984, and that he, and Rabin, continue to be important ministers in a national unity government is due, above all, to the Israeli Palestinians. This has also become apparent to the Israeli Palestinians themselves. It has become an important subject for discussion among the Israeli Jews, especially the more racist among them.

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Israel is, below a thin veneer of politeness, a racist society, but the degree of racism, specially when it conflicts with "good manners," differs. For many Jews, the now obvious fact that "the Arabs" or "the Gentiles" determine who is to be the prime minister of the Jewish state, and that Palestinian members of Knesset vote on the "Who is a Jew" law, is intolerable. Since the Jewish racists and chauvinists inside Israel are becoming less and less inhibited by the norms of polite society, they and their elected politicians express those views quite openly. Declarations that the Israeli Palestinians are a cancer to be excised, or that the

It became apparent to the public that the fact that Peres became prime minister in 1984 was, above all, due to the Israeli Palestinians.

way to obtain peace in the territories for 30 years is to kill 500 Arabs a day instead of the three or four a day, are accurate quotations from Likud MK's (Michael Eitan and Benny Shalit) which brought them increased popular-

ity in their own camp. Naturally, the person who sensed the trend some months ago and who exploits it most is Ariel Sharon, who has now made the proposal to deprive most Israeli Palestinians of their vote in Knesset elections as one of the most important issues of his political programme (together with the conquest of Jordan, the killing of Yasser Arafat etc.). Although most other Likud leaders have not come out in support of this programme, there is no doubt that the popularity of Sharon is increasing fast, specially among the religious. The Israeli Labour Party knows very well that support of this aspect of Sharon's plan is equivalent to political suicide, and therefore will prevent it, which at present it can do; but the question is what will happen in the next real crisis: (from the point of view of the majority of Israeli Jews, of course).

I do not pretend to know the answer, but I know that the very fact that the right of Israeli citizens who are Palestinians to vote is now the subject of serious discussion in Israel, illustrates the dangers of increasing Jewish chauvinism and racism to all the peoples of the Middle East, including, of course, the Jews themselves — Middle East International, London.

South Korean press enjoying increased freedom

By Paul Shin
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The South Korean press is enjoying a broad degree of freedom after years of tough official control even though critics claim the government still controls the news.

Few observers would deny that press freedom has increased greatly since last summer with the nation's newspapers vigorously reporting and commenting on politics and other subjects that for years were limited or banned by the government.

President-elect Roh Tae-Woo, who takes office Feb. 25, promises to ensure full press freedom and made it a key point in his campaign. The government began easing press restrictions last summer under pressure from Roh.

"We have done much and there should be nothing to complain about," Assistant Culture Information Minister Lee Jung-Bae told the Associated Press in a recent interview.

Journalists agree the government has abandoned most controls on the domestic press such as regular visits to newspapers by security agents and "press guidelines" that dictated what could be reported and in what way.

Government requirements on registration of journalists have been dropped and new legislation will end limits on newspapers having news bureaus outside their home towns. There also will be no limits on the number of pages a newspaper can publish daily.

"The ball is in the court of the news media. It's up to them," said Rep. Lee Min-Sup, a ranking member of Roh's ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP).

'Hidden hands'

Opposition politicians and dissidents contend much of the press still remains under government control and that press activity is

severely curtailed by the government's "hidden hands."

Roh, candidate of the ruling DJP, defeated rival opposition leaders Kim Young-Sam and Kim Dae-Jung in the Dec. 16 presidential elections. The opposition contends that Roh will continue the authoritarian rule of his ally and mentor, outgoing President Chun Doo-Hwan.

Rep. Kim Tae-Ryong, spokesman for the opposition Party for Reunification Democratic Party (RDP), said, "No basic changes have been made and the press still is no more than a public relations tool of the government."

The opposition claims the government is exerting strong behind-the-scenes influence and control ranging from intimidation to patronage and bribery. They also contend the media is packed with government supporters.

Rep. Ahn Dong-Sun, spokesman for the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD), said press freedom was limited by "domesticated" journalists practicing "self-censorship."

But opposition officials have trouble in backing up charges, many of which appear based on anti-government sentiment and frustration that their opinions do not receive more attention.

Kim Tae-Hong, secretary-general of the dissident Council for Democratic Press Movement, said, "Essentially, Roh is the same as his dictatorial predecessor. He would not give in easily. We must continue to fight for press freedom."

Editors reject the charges

Several editors and reporters rejected the opposition charges of self-censorship, but said they want to help ensure "sound political development" without endangering social stability.

One senior editor, who like other journalists would not be named, said many journalists

were cautious because the people who curbed the press would remain in power since Roh won the election.

"It's true that many journalists remain guarded. They suspect the true intention of the government," he said.

The opposition singles out television for criticism, saying the country's two state-owned networks, that are the only stations, just project the government viewpoint. They say opposing points of view receive little attention or are distorted.

Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) spokesman Lim Ung-Shik rejected the opposition's charges of bias, saying, "Our news and other programmes are fair by any standard."

Lim said KBS has recently started some new important programmes, including talk shows, to which opposition figures are regularly invited.

Government officials say the criticism may end after a neutral broadcasting committee is set up in June as required by a new law to nominate the heads of the two

networks. Some opposition lawmakers will be appointed to serve on the committee to ensure fairness.

The government is also preparing to inaugurate next month a new press law that would replace old laws that were used to enforce government control. A key change in the law is dropping a requirement of government approval to start new newspapers.

Seven newspapers have so far applied to start publication under the new law. There currently are 20 national dailies in South Korea

with an estimated combined circulation of 12 million.

The first beneficiary of the new law would be a newspaper some 200 dissident journalists plan to publish this spring with support from 3,300 sponsors, including 1,000 college professors, 100 lawyers, 200 religious leaders and 200 literati.

Song Kun-Ho, president of the newspaper, *The Hankyoreh Shinmun*, said the project will be funded with 5 billion won (\$6.8 million) to be raised through public shares.

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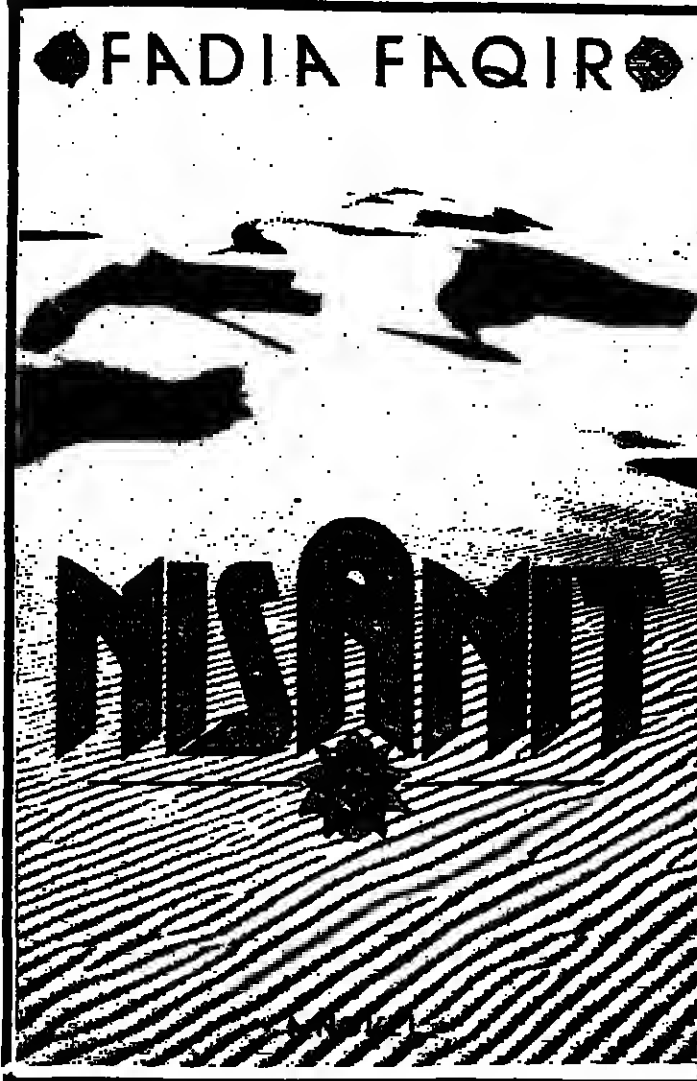
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Divided Semites battle for dignity

SANA ATIYEH reviews Fadia Faqir's novel, Nisanit

Nisanit

By Fadia Faqir

Aidan Ellis Publishing Ltd., 1987

PP. 255; JD 6.800

THREE narratives depicting different socio-political thoughts are presented to show love, compassion, sacrifice, suffering and lost innocence in an atmosphere of conflict, hatred and oppression.

Fadia Faqir's Nisanit, her first published novel, is a complex story of a human struggle to live in dignity in an oppressive society. Faqir presents her themes through three different points of view in two separate settings and time spans.

The three main characters are Eman, a young Arab woman living in Rahmah, the Democratic State of Ishmael; Shaded, a Palestinian commando from a refugee camp in Nablus; and David, an Israeli soldier. The two major narratives are those of Eman's and David's. Eman's point of view starts out in the novel from the time she was a child, Shaded's and David's from the 1980s. The author's use of time goes back and forth from 1969 to 1985, and from the democratic state of Ishmael to occupied Palestine and the democratic state of Israel.

BOOK REVIEW

Eman, the child, experiences her first encounter with oppression when soldiers in Rahmah break into her family's home to take away her father who was accused of trying to overthrow the leader. Lulu, her favourite and only doll, was ripped open by the authorities at the same time her father was taken away. So at a very young age she has lost the two that she loved very dearly. When later on her baby sister dies of starvation, Eman feels that she should not love anyone any more because every time they would be taken away from her. In 1977, now a teenager, and watching her father's hanging for his political beliefs, Eman, in a very moving and hair-raising scene, breaks into hysterics shouting that she hated her father because she felt responsible for the loss of her loved ones.

When Eman visits Palestine for the first time she helplessly falls in love with Shaded. She tries to suppress her love in fear of also losing him. Shaded is a young determined Palestinian commando who is caught by Israeli authorities after he and a group of fighters mount an operation against an enemy target. Shaded, the only survivor from his group, is taken and brutally tortured by David while being interrogated by an officer. He does not confess to anything despite all the crazy forms of torture used against him.

David the Pole

David is an inferior Polish immigrant who has been working in Beer Sheva prison as a torturer of 15 years without a promotion. His bitterness towards this fact has made him infertile and his wife Judith bore him no children. David's frustration and indifference to inflicting pain is evident when he beats Shaded, trying to get a confession.

"He started beating the terrorist up when the officer told him to. Teach the bastard how to behave in the future, if he had a future. He did his job mechanically because he knew by heart where to hit to cause the most intense pain. It came with experience. When he was a green soldier, the idea of inflicting pain had terrified him, then he got used to it. He liked to do a clean job and watch the colour of the prisoner's skin change from red-crimson-purple to indigo. When the left side of the body became a mixture of black and purple he would switch to the right. The ultimate was an even colour all over."

David's bitterness towards his new home appears in one scene while working in his garden: "He held the shovel and tried to flatten the ground to its former shape. He raised his hand and hit. The frightened eyes of the terrorist were mingled with the soil. Pleading? Begging?"

David is also very inferior to the earth: "The fresh flowers and clean roads of Zawichest in Poland flashed in his mind. Tendrils of pink rose trees climbed the white walls of his village. He had tried them in his garden, but the soil was too salty and needed a lot of

water before it was purified."

Though David appears to be very brutal and inhuman, the author gives him a fair chance and depicts him as a man who has also suffered. She also takes him through a transitional stage: When he does not break Shaded's silence, the interrogator takes the commando to another more inhuman torturer. After emptying a bottle of acid into his anus, Shaded loses his sanity and "becomes an ant." When David sees what had happened to the young Palestinian, he begins to change and humanity takes over, especially that his nightmare about his experiences in World War II start to continuously haunt him.

David comes to terms with himself and decides to quit his job and live peacefully in a kibbutz. At that stage, he ironically succeeds at finally getting Judith pregnant.

The three noes

In Nisanit — which is a desert flower that takes a strong hold to the Jewish and cannot be eradicated — socio-political injustice and brutality is not only seen in occupied Palestine but also in the fictitious state Faqir created: The Democratic State of Ishmael, which obviously represents an Arab country. Eman's father is hanged for his opposing political beliefs, she and her family suffer from poverty and she must quit school in order to work with a tailor (an old Armenian lady who is kind to her throughout); Eman, her mother, and her aunt Hanin are ignored by Eman's wealthy uncle by refusing to help the father in paying a lawyer for his defence; Hanin is sexually harassed, the Eman is unjustly accused by her uncle of being a slut. When Eman visits the occupied territories for the first time and stays in a refugee camp, she finds no difference between her poverty-stricken neighbourhood and the camp. When she becomes an UNRWA teacher in Rahmah, she is told not to discuss the "three noes": sex, politics and religion — to name a few forms of oppression in her country.

Faqir's complex style is what makes her story so powerful. Her use of the stream of consciousness and her ability to write from such differing points of views makes the reader feel empathy with the characters, regardless of who. She writes from a little girl's point of view, a young woman's, an inferior enemy soldier, a Palestinian fighter, an insane, broken down young man who has been degraded to an ant. Faqir is able to take readers from reality to the deep world of different minds. It takes great imagination (and much research) to be able to write what a person who believes he is an ant thinks and feels.

The author uses symbols, metaphors, images and personifications in her descriptions to make the reader understand the importance of themes that run throughout. For example, there is one scene of an old Palestinian woman in the outskirts of Nablus: "Her embroidered black dress swept the ground, providing a constant contact with the earth."

Readers who had little contact with Palestinian and Arab culture are able to understand much of it from Nisanit. Faqir constantly mentions cultural aspects through descriptions of clothes, food, ideas, poetry and songs. Verses from popular Palestinian poets and well-known Egyptian singers, for example, are found within a certain context of ideas in the novel.

Sometimes the reader may have to read a few chapters at a time in order not to get so emotionally involved and have the mind full of disturbing thoughts. But the fact that there is also action, not just thoughts, running throughout the novel, keeps one reading until the end. And even at the end of Nisanit, the reader is left empty and unsatisfied.

Fadia Faqir was born in Amman in 1956 and wrote Nisanit as part of her M.A. programme in creative writing at Lancaster University in England. Because it was written in English, Nisanit provides a strong perspective to English readers of the Arab-Israeli, Arab-Arab conflict, unlike similar books written by Arab writers whose works were translated from Arabic. Because Faqir, a feminist, could not find work in her academic field when she returned to Jordan with her Masters degree, she went back to England to work on her Ph.D. in creative writing at the University of East Anglia. As part of Ph.D., she is currently working on her second novel, set in the Jordan Valley in the 1930s, about a bedouin woman fighting for her basic rights.

Randa Habib's Corner

The right investment

IT SEEMS we will never reach a solution for the traffic problem in Jordan. Our country has the second highest rate of road accidents in the Arab World and there are no indications this sad reality will change in the foreseeable future.

Surely, better roads and wider ones are being built in addition to tunnels and bridges. But this massive investment in improving our roads has not paid off as expected in terms of changing the attitude of reckless or ignorant drivers.

Most people advocate tougher measures and penalties against violators of traffic rules in a way that the cost of such violations is raised to a level that could make many reckless drivers think twice before ignoring traffic rules. This could be one measure but should not be the only one.

But what is the use of tough penalty after a life is lost as a cause of reckless driving. What we need more than higher fines and what I believe is more important than massive investment in roads and bridges, is an investment in people and their education.

It is less expensive, I think, to invest money in educating our people that they are better off driving safely and to make them aware of the painful cost they may pay as a result of their recklessness. It is also not so expensive to teach our children at school about the horrors of breaking traffic laws. On the other hand, it would be quite helpful in Jordan Television broadcasts less American films showing the hero of the film taking part in a terrifying car chase in residential areas and more films on safe driving. If that was not possible, as most American action films "must" have car-chasing and crashing scenes, then we should seriously consider censoring these parts of films as I believe their influence on our youngsters is more of a threat to our lives than the parts of being censored now.

Computer games include boss button for players at work

By Gene Emery
Reuter

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island — For those workers who prefer computer game to office tasks, software makers have introduced the "boss button."

If the boss enters an office where a worker is at play, a touch of the boss button replaces the game on the screen with something a little more businesslike — like a spreadsheet.

The buttons are already found on several games designed for Macintosh and IBM personal computers popular in offices. Electronic arts, for example, has the button on products such as world tour golf, golden oldies, grand slam bridge and chessmaster 2000.

"They're probably becoming more common," said Alfred Mendes, who manages a computer store in Providence.

And with more and more computers on desks, he said, "more and more people are going to play."

Access software's bowling game has a boss button and the company's public relations director, Kevin Jones said people had asked to have the button on other products.

Unfortunately for employees, boss button must be programmed into the original software. And the computer's internal memory must have room for the device.

Cramming instructions

As computer games get ever more complex, programmers must fight for the memory space to cram in enough instructions and there is not always enough room left over for a boss button. "In the last game we made, we didn't put one in because we were cramming into every nook and cranny of the memory," Jones explained.

And one recent survey indicated that boss buttons may not be necessary — bosses are too busy playing games themselves.

A thin line through the minefield

By Stella Charbit

SINCE THE start of the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, the media have been seen as a crucial factor in the conflict by both Israelis and Palestinians. In Israel, some leaders lament the way in which the Shamir government often appears more worried by the media image of the problem than by the problem itself. Other newspapers echo the view that the media are the problem.

This was the argument put by the Hebrew paper Yediot Ahronot, which wrote at the time of Marek Gouding's visit from the United Nations: "The rioters have learned to appreciate the importance of images on world public opinion. The proof lies in the 'performances' they put on 'spontaneously' each time media representatives or guests from abroad appear."

The debate about whether the presence of the press incites trouble was lessened somewhat as the uprising has become more prolonged and visibly more organised, but one issue still continually raised is that of foreign media coverage, frequently accused of bias. Yet reporter Daniel Gavron, after a close look at British media coverage during a visit to England in January, found that, far from being anti-Israeli, it had underplayed the crisis: "For the first time in my 26 years in Israel, I returned home to find the situation worse than it looked from abroad."

Concern over growing anti-Israeli feeling abroad has led to repeated calls for curbs on television reporting. At a conference on free speech in December, President Herzog, while not advocating such curbs, pointed out that both Britain and the USA had closely restricted press coverage of military campaigns in

the Falklands and Grenada. South Africa's methods of media control also invite comparisons. In a recent article rejecting parallels between Israel and South Africa, Rabbi Jacob Chinitz nevertheless noted that "South Africa has cured its television problem by expelling cameras from problematic areas," while "Israel subjects itself to an orgy of democratic masochism."



New Year greetings cartoon censored by Israeli authorities for Palestinian heftiyah image

The experience of journalists receiving rough treatment from the army at trouble spots or being turned back by military "closed area" orders mark the limits to any "orgy" of democracy. Yet the Israeli press itself does go over and over the issues, in what one paper called "masochistic introspection". It has widened the debate to the point at which a Jerusalem Post interview with the PLO's Paris representative, Ibrahim Souss, unthinkable only a short time ago, hardly raised an eyebrow.

At the start of the uprising, the Jerusalem Post leader-writer Yehuda Litani, wrote with heavy irony about the widespread reluctance to see what was going

on: "What a pity the TV and radio strike is over. Had it continued, we would have been spared the ugly scenes from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank... We could have watched it all on Jordanian TV and concluded that it was all 'Arab propaganda'."

In an attempt to improve relations between the foreign press and the army, the Israeli authorities have now opened a military information office in West Jerusalem. While the press corps can hardly be said to be flocking there, on the other side of the green line the Palestinian press office, PPS, which supplies a daily news round-up to foreign agencies, has a constant flow of foreign journalists visiting its East Jerusalem office to find out about the latest trouble spots and hospital arrivals.

But winning the media war is not that easy. On the Gaza Strip, the Arab Press Agency, which saw the foreign press knock at its door in equal if not greater numbers, was closed down on January 25 for a year for "security" reasons. In the same week Ariel Sharon called for the closure of PPS and the East Jerusalem Arab newspapers.

Faced with closures, distribution bans, reporting restrictions (such as a ban on carrying cameras), heavy censorship and ever greater numbers of their staff in prison or under town arrest, the Palestinian media tread a thin line. The most common method of getting a story through the military censorship is to give it to the Israeli press in order to re-quote it from that source the next day. Not only news items and editorials but also cartoons and crosswords, if the clues are deemed to have "nationalistic" overtones, are subject, literally, to the censor's rubber stamp.

While the official reason for censorship is to prevent "incitement", the actual result is to

restrict severely the Palestinian press. There has always been intense debate among Palestinians over whether, as the PPS director Ibrahim Karreen puts it, "to use the cracks in the wall of occupation to breathe if possible, or to refuse those cracks". The consensus that it is better to go on publishing has been severely put to the test since the start of the uprising. The East Jerusalem papers are facing restrictions which some editors fear will lead to a total loss of credibility.

In any case, this degree of censorship seems paradoxical when Palestinians have access to Israeli, Jordanian, Lebanese, Syrian or Egyptian television and to a dozen different radio stations. A new challenge has now appeared in the form of Al Qods radio, thought to be run by Ahmad Jibril, the general command leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, from southern Syria or from the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley in Lebanon.

Throughout the occupied territories, people tune in to the day-long programmes of popular Palestinian nationalist songs interspersed with reports on the uprising.

Following the current trend towards "complete unity", the station broadcasts calls for strikes and demonstrations, and warnings to collaborators. But PLO supporters in the territories fear it might play a divisive role in future and hope the PLO will respond with a truly popular radio station of its own as a counterbalance. Current PLO broadcasts, from Baghdad, clash with television viewing times, and the content is not designed for pleasure.

Just as no one knows where the uprising will lead, no one knows how the media, in this complex scene, will follow — The Guardian.

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Napoli storms over Avellino, rises 5 points clear of Milan

ROME (R) — Unstoppable Napoli stormed to a 4-0 win over Avellino Sunday, sending it five points clear at the top of the Italian First Division.

But second-placed A.C. Milan did not have such a happy time, struggling to win a point at lowly Ascoli after European Footballer of the Year Ruud Gullit was sent off in the eighth minute.

Napoli sealed their latest win in a five-minute spell in the first half. Alessandro Renica headed home the first goal in the 17th minute and two minutes later defender Giovanni Francini scored with a fine shot from just outside the penalty area.

Then it was captain Diego Maradona's turn to show his brilliance. Taking the ball almost from the halfway line in the 22nd minute, he dribbled past several Avellino players before curling the ball around a wall of defenders into the net.

It was the Argentine captain's

12th league goal this season. He heads the goalscorers' list, four clear of team-mate Careca.

In the second half Napoli relaxed, but were still too strong for struggling Avellino and in the 66th minute Francesco Romano scored their fourth.

An uglier match at Ascoli saw both teams reduced to 10 men. Gullit, Milan's Dutch international, fouled Flavio Destro early in the match, was shown a yellow card and started to clap ironically at the referee. He was sent off and could face a two-match suspension.

Ascoli failed to take advantage of Gullit's dismissal until two minutes after halftime when Destro slipped through the defence and knocked the ball home.

Twenty minutes later Ascoli's Domenico Agostino was dismissed after two warnings for fouls and Milan rubbed salt into the wound soon after when midfielder Daniele Massaro scored from a cross by Carlo Ancelotti.

Roma, in third place in the league, drew 1-1 at Pisa while fourth-placed Sampdoria showed new spirit after a series of disappointing games with a 3-0 win over Como. Pietro Vierchow opened the scoring in the 21st minute, West German Hans-Peter Briegel made it two in the 63rd and winger Gianluca Vialli hit the third in the 76th.

Fiorentina, struggling to escape the relegation zone, failed to draw any response from their fans in the colourless 0-0 draw at home to bottom club Empoli.

The fans, dismayed at their team's poor results recently, left all their banners, flags and whistles at home and refused to cheer or encourage their side.



ROMANIANS TROUNCE AL JEZIRA: The ASA Club of Romania beat Jordan's Al Jezira Club 3-0 in a friendly soccer match played at Amman stadium Sunday. Photo shows three Jezira players trying to flank an ASA striker who scored the first goal (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Orser — Canada's best bet at Calgary

CALGARY (R) — If Brian Orser's psychologist is to be believed, the Canadian world champion is a cast iron certainty to win the men's Olympic figure skating gold next Saturday.

"I think he's stronger right now than he was when he won the world title in Cincinnati last year," Peter Jensen said Saturday, referring to Orser's triumph which ended three successive second place finishes behind three different skaters.

Jensen said Orser had virtually forgotten the near disaster he suffered in the Canadian championships last month when he fell twice during the free programme but recovered to win the crown for the ninth time.

"Letting go of the past and being in the present is part of his policy," Jensen said. "Besides, no one stood up on the ice that night."

Orser, 26, has explained that he was unable to concentrate fully on that night in British Columbia.

"By body was there but my mind was elsewhere. I've left that behind me now," he said after his first practice here Saturday.

Orser, who later in the day carried Canada's flag into McMahon stadium during the opening ceremony, said he was very pleased with his first practice here.

"It felt just like Cincinnati," he said. "It went exactly as I wanted it to go. I skated a clean short programme and felt quite relaxed."

Orser looked extremely re-



Brian Orser

laxed, chatting to press and spectators during breaks — most skaters never do that — and generally exuding confidence.

"Every day since the nationals has gone better and better, and I intend that to continue right through to the 20th," he said.

That is the night when the medals will be decided — almost certainly by Orser and former world champions Brian Boitano of the U.S. and the Soviet Union's Alexander Fadeyev. The competition itself begins three days earlier with the compulsory figures.

Orser has done everything to boost his chances of victory including going to Jensen for help after squandering a chance to claim the world title a year earlier

in Geneva when — as last month — he twice fell on his specialty, the triple axel.

Together they have worked hard on the mental aspects of

1988 WINTER OLYMPICS

skating, including a complete simulation last year of a major event with judges and spectators in a Toronto rink.

"After that, nothing that could happen during the competition would be a surprise," Orser said.

Later in 1987, Orser repeated his victory over Boitano at the Skate Canada event in the Saddledome which will stage their battle again here.

"much faster than (the record) 36.55, but it should be somewhere around there."

His challengers included team-mate Dan Jansen, Japan's Akira Kuroiwa and Bae Ki-Tae of South Korea, East Germany's Uwe-Jens Mey and the Soviet Union's Igor Zhelkezhovsky and Sergei Fokichev.

On the downhill slopes of Mount Allan, more than 90 kilometres away, a classic duel

shaped up between two Swiss aces — 30-year-old Peter Mueller and 25-year-old Pirmin Zurbriggen, the world cup leader.

Mueller bettered Zurbriggen by 23-hundredths of a second Saturday in the fifth and final training run. Mueller clocked in at 2 minutes, 0.03 seconds, his best training time.

The Canmore cross-country course, to the northwest of Mount Allan, is rated as one of the world's toughest.

Marja-Liisa Kirvesniemi of Finland, the 32-year-old defending champion, finds the first uphill stretch to be "especially demanding" as she sought to repeat her gold-medal performance at Sarajevo, where she won all three individual races.

Closer to Calgary — at Canada Olympic Park — defending gold medalist Jens Weisflog of East Germany faced a tough challenge on the 70-metre hill from Matti Nykanen, the "flying Finn."

Two surprises marked the opening of the 15th Winter Games Saturday — the choice of a 12-year-old "future Olympian" to light the Olympic flame and West Germany's 2-1 victory over

Winds force postponement of downhill event

CALGARY (R) — High winds forced the postponement Sunday of the men's Olympic downhill, first event of the Alpine skiing programme, race organisers said. The race jury called off the event after initially delaying the scheduled start by an hour.

Czechoslovakia in ice hockey.

No surprise was the 5-0 romp by the Soviet Union, the defending champion, over Norway in other Group B ice hockey action. The United States, the 1980 Olympic champion, scored 10 goals in defeating 12th seeded Austria, but allowed six in return.

Departing from the usual practice of picking well-known Olympic athletes, the organisers of the Calgary Games caused a stir among the 60,000 spectators at the opening ceremony by sending out Robyn Perry, a local seventh-grade pupil, to carry the Olympic torch the final distance, up 76 steps to a cauldron atop the north end of McMahon Stadium.

The Olympic flame shot three metres into the air as soon as the girl touched her torch to a natural-gas valve on the cauldron.

Grand opening

Some 1,600 athletes representing a record 57 countries — from the lone cross-country skier from Fiji to the 322-member U.S. contingent — marched into McMahon Stadium on an overcast Saturday afternoon to launch the 16-day games, the biggest, longest and most lavish ever.

Governor-General Jeanne Sauve, Canada's head of state, officially declared the games open. But she flubbed her lines. She opened the "15th Olympic Games" rather than the "15th Olympic Winter Games." Her slip went unnoticed by the 60,000 spectators shivering under the white, red, blue, green and black capes that formed a backdrop of maple leaves and Olympic rings for the estimated two billion television viewers worldwide.

Edberg beats Mecir to win Nabisco Grand Prix

ROTTERDAM (AP) — Swede Stefan Edberg won the 1988 Nabisco Grand Prix tennis tournament for the second consecutive year by defeating Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia 7-6 (7-5), 6-2.

Edberg, 22, earned the \$32,500 first prize by steadily hammering the Czech's defences in a two-hour match marked by a gruelling first set and a walkover second.

The Swede, who defeated American ace John McEnroe in last year's finals, was the first to lose a service game after only 20 minutes of play.

But although he succeeded in stealing Mecir's next service game, Edberg lost the first set's seventh game again, and defeat was only stayed off because Mecir failed to cash in on four set points in the ninth and 10th game.

Edberg, fighting like a lion, forced a breakpoint in that game, and took an early 3-0 lead in the set's tie break, which he eventually won 7-5.

The 7-6 loss of the first set appeared to be a severe blow to the morale of Mecir, who won his first Grand Prix victory in 1985 by defeating Swiss player Jakob Hlasek.

The Czech's defences crumbled as Edberg's form rapidly improved, and the Swede managed



Stefan Edberg

to haul in the only love game of the match with the second set barely five minutes old.

The death knell sounded for Mecir in the fifth game, when Edberg forced a breakthrough in only three minutes.

The Swedish ace then took another game in quick stride, and after Mecir lost his next service game again, it took Edberg another two minutes to finish the job, cheered on by the 9,000-strong capacity crowd in the Ahoy Sports Emporium.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Two Omani soccer referees die

MUSCAT (AP) — Two international qualified Omani referees died in a car crash this weekend, leaving the sultanate with only one referee acknowledged by the World Soccer Federation (FIFA), an Omani Football Association (OFA) official said Sunday. The two died when their car overturned into a valley while on their way to a referee training camp in the coastal town of Sur, 340 kilometres southeast of the capital Muscat Saturday. Referee Abu Wahid, 44, who was to officiate at the Seoul Olympics, died instantly, and FIFA colleague Hamed Hamdan, 38, died later in hospital. The driver and a third passenger, Sudanese referee Hassan Abdul Hafidh, were also killed. Hafidh joined the OFA less than three weeks ago. By a twist of fate, the camp had been organised because of the shortage of Omani referees. An OFA spokesman said Sunday eyewitnesses saw a front tyre blow out and the referees' car skid into a roadside pole before overturning. Oman's now sole remaining FIFA referee Mohammad Saleh was waiting for them at Sur. Oman, with a population 1.5 million, has 60 football clubs making soccer the most popular sport in the country.

Bangladesh cancels cricket tournament

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh said Sunday it was cancelling the limited overs Asia Cup cricket tournament scheduled at the end of the month because the Indian team has pulled out. "We are cancelling this most popular fixture with great regret," Anisul Islam Mahmud, president of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB), said. He said Bangladesh was also asking the Asian Cricket Conference to fix a new date for the tournament some time in October. "We still don't want to miss the show," Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh were to have played in the week-long tournament beginning on Feb. 22, but India decided not to send its team because of current political unrest in Bangladesh.

Records tumble at U.S. Olympic invitational meet

EAST RUTHERFORD (R) — Doina Melinte of Romania set a world record for the women's indoor mile Saturday and gave the most sparkling of a dazzling array of performances at the Olympic invitational athletics meet sizzle.

Finishing in four minutes 18.86 seconds, she smashed the world mark of 4:20.5 set by American Mary Decker Slaney in 1982. Kirsty Wade of Britain was second in 4:27.17 and Melinte's compatriot Mitica Jnaghitaru-Constantin third in 4:32.81.

In their strong challenges for world indoor records, Jackie Joyner-Kersey settled for the women's U.S. long jump record of 23 feet 1/2 inch and Ireland's Marcus O'Sullivan for the world's third fastest mile time of 3:50.94.

However, two-time Olympic gold medal winner Sebastian Coe's U.S. indoor racing debut met with failure when the British runner pulled out of the 3,000 metres with two laps still to go.

Coe had just been lapped by eventual winner Brian Abshire of

the U.S., who raced on to an American indoor record of 7:41.57, when he walked off the banked track.

Abshire's time was the second fastest behind the world indoor mark of 7:39.2 set by Belgium's Emiel Puttemans.

Coe was making his first competitive racing appearance since last May. An injury to his right Achilles tendon forced him to miss the remainder of last year. One other world indoor best performance belonged to Tim Lewis of the United States in the 1,500-metre race walk. Lewis' time of five minutes and 13.53 seconds shattered his own record of 5:17.17 set at this meet last year.

Compatriot Ed O'Rourke was second in 5:33.11.

The world's number one hurdler, American Greg Foster, taking charge of the race after the first hurdle, roared to his sixth 55-metre hurdles U.S. Olympic invitational victory in a time of 7.01.

Baseball is back; teams open training camps this week

By Ben Walker
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Olympics are starting, Michael Jordan is dominating and Doug Williams is America's latest hero.

Who cares? Pitchers and catchers report Thursday.

Baseball is back. Spring training begins this week when the world series champion Minnesota Twins and 17 other teams open camp.

Billy Martin is also back — again. So is Bob Horner. Along with the possibility of another strike in the near future.

Steve Garvey is gone. So is player Pete Rose, although he resists the word "retire." Reggie Jackson also may have taken his last big swings.

Jack Clark, Kirk Gibson, Dave Parker, Lee Smith, Bob Welch, Phil Bradley, Brett Butler, Danny Jackson, Floyd Bannister and Richard Dotson have new homes in the major leagues.

Bill Gullickson, Bill Madlock and Doug Decinces have new addresses in Japan.

The New York Mets, Kansas City Royals and Cincinnati Reds have new training sites in Florida. But the Chicago Cubs, now

with manager Don Zimmer leading the hope for their first pennant since 1945, still spend the spring at Cozy Ho Ho Kam Park in Mesa, Arizona.

Some things stay the same in the best game of all.

Like the questions that make spring training so delightful. Who will be this season's top rookies, the hot prospects that seem destined for Cooperstown?

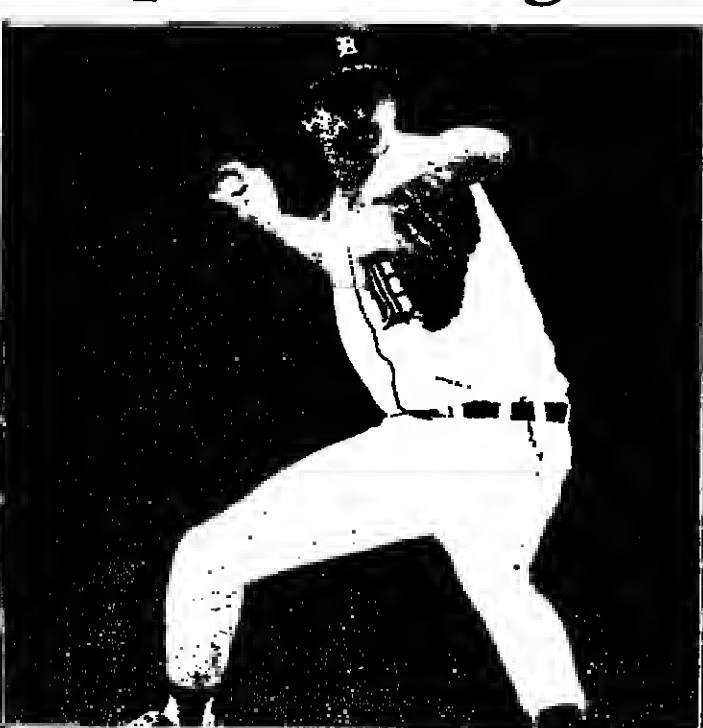
Maybe shortstop Kevin Elster of the Mets. Or Slugger Joey Meyer with Milwaukee. Might be Jack McDowell of the Chicago White Sox. Perhaps Glenallen "Thrill" Hill of Toronto.

Who will be the surprise teams this year?

Maybe Oakland, now with Parker, Welch, Matt Young and Don Baylor. Could be those Los Angeles bluebloods, having added Gibson, Jay Howell, Jesse Orosco, Alfredo Griffin and Mike Davis.

"I'm prepared to open a new chapter in my career and a new era for the Los Angeles Dodgers. I believe they are committed to restoring the winning tradition," Gibson said. "I just enrolled at the University of Lasorda."

Gibson left Detroit and signed a three-year, \$4.5-million con-



Jack Morris

tract with the Dodgers after being given a second chance at free agency by arbitrator Tom Roberts, who ruled owners conspired to restrict the market in 1985.

Two more collusion grievances

filed by the players' union are still pending. There is a chance Tim Lincecum, Andre Dawson, Jack Morris and Lance Parrish could get the same opportunity as Gibson later this year.

Owners and players are also

gripping about other issues, fuelling speculation there will be a strike in 1990 when the basic agreement ends. Both sides are posturing and waiting.

Clark did not wait. He left St. Louis and signed a two-year contract with the New York Yankees, who charged back into the multimillion-dollar free agent sweepstakes.

"I'm coming over here to do some hitting," Clark said.

Clark will join Martin, in his fifth term in manager, along with Rafael Santana — the only major leaguer ever traded between the New York Teams — Dotson, John Candelaria, Don Slaught and Lee Guetterman at Yankee Stadium, where the fence in left-centre field has been moved in from 125 metres to 122 metres.

This weekend, snow is covering the field in the Bronx. There is plenty of time before the regular season opens April 4 with St. Louis at Cincinnati and Milwaukee at Baltimore.

For now, the games that matter — even though they don't count — is March 3. That's when Kansas City plays Florida State University in the Grapefruit League opener and the Cubs faces Mesa

Community College in the first Cactus League game.

The Royals shifted their spring camp from Fort Myers to Baseball City, a new complex near Orlando. The Reds moved a few kilometres from Tampa to Plant City.

The Mets left St. Petersburg on the gulf coast to the Port St. Lucie on the Atlantic Ocean side. The Met's first exhibition game March 5 against Los Angeles has been sold out for awhile.

Minnesota still works out near Disney World, perfect for a team that completed a dream season in 1987 by destroying inside its Deadeck. The Twins made no major changes in the off-season — a dangerous pattern in the past — except in their payroll, which zoomed as Frank Viola, Kirby Puckett, Gary Gaetti and others signed rich new contracts.

"It's important for this club to keep key players from our championship team for a couple of years," Twins General manager Andy Macphail said.

That's what all winners say, but none have made repeat appearances in the world series since the Yankees in 1977-78. The Twins begin that quest Thursday when baseball returns.



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Rival groups clash, police battle protesters in Dhaka strike

DHAKA (R) — At least 50 people were hurt when rival political groups clashed and police battled stone-throwing protesters during the latest general strike in Bangladesh Sunday.

The official BSS news agency said sporadic clashes, linked to Wednesday's rural election carnage in which 150 people died, took place in four districts across the country.

BSS gave no casualty figures, but residents said at least 35 people were injured when rival groups attacked each other in revenge for last Wednesday's violence.

In Dhaka, at least 15 people were hurt when protesters, throwing stones, fought police after police dispersed an anti-government march in an old residential area.

Shops and offices in most towns in Bangladesh were closed during the 12-hour strike. Some pedal rickshaws and government buses moved in otherwise empty streets.

Five-hundred government em-

ployees, who walked to their offices despite the stoppage, quit early to protest against what they said was lack of security for them and their families.

Their move followed the death of one of their colleagues, who died from injuries he suffered Saturday when strikers threw bombs at a government bus in which he was travelling to work.

Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad described the civil servant as the "cruel victim of the consequence of terrorism."

The stoppages Saturday and Sunday were the latest in a series of strikes called by 21 opposition parties aimed at ousting Ershad.

The strikes turned into specific protests against election day violence last Wednesday in which more than 150 people were killed, independent witnesses and the government said. Eight

thousand were injured.

Doctors said two more people died in Dhaka Medical College Hospital Sunday from injuries suffered during the Wednesday violence.

The government said 80 people died, and ordered newspapers to print only the official death toll to avoid sensationalism, a Home Ministry official said.

BSS quoting police sources said at least 25 people were arrested Sunday across the country while they tried to launch attacks on their political rivals.

Home Minister Abdul Matin said the reprisal attacks were mostly carried out by those who lost the rural elections. He said he expected no large-scale violence because police reinforcements had already reached the troubled areas.

Opposition leaders described the strike as a sign of no confidence in Ershad, a general who has ruled the country for six years after seizing power in a military coup.

Democratic presidential candidates go at it in pre-primary debate

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire (R) — The seven Democratic presidential candidates carved each other up Saturday night in a debate just three days before New Hampshire's key first-in-the-nation presidential primary.

Opponents jumped on Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, the undisputed New Hampshire frontrunner, but their strongest attacks were reserved for one of the two contenders for second place, Missouri Congressman Richard Gephardt.

Political experts called the debate the fiercest exchange yet between the Democrats, whose campaign for the presidency has been overshadowed by the Republican battle between Vice President George Bush and Kansas Senator Robert Dole.

The Republican race was too close to call as Bush's once-commanding lead over the Senate minority leader in New Hampshire polls evaporated after the vice president's shock third-place finish in the Iowa caucuses last Monday.

A new ABC News poll showed that Dole had pulled even with Bush at 29 per cent each with

their three rivals tied at 12 per cent. A CBS News poll released Friday showed Dole had moved marginally ahead of Bush in New Hampshire.

Among the Democrats, the new poll had Dukakis far ahead with 40 per cent. Gephardt, who won in Iowa, and Illinois Senator Paul Simon were tied for second at 16 per cent each.

Black civil rights leader Jesse Jackson stood above the fray at the debate at St. Anselm College, chiding his colleagues for sparring out of "political ambition."

Gary Hart slammed Dukakis for not having an energy policy. The governor snapped back, "if you had been around this summer you would have heard it."

Dukakis's reference was to Hart's seven-month-long disappearance from the campaign after sex-scandal allegations.

Gephardt accused Simon of questioning his integrity, and then was pummeled by Tennessee Senator Albert Gore and former Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt for flip-flopping on issues. Simon aimed a few kicks of his own at Gephardt.

Babbitt said the debate got bogged down in bickering because the three front-runners in the polls — Dukakis, Gephardt and Simon — did not have an agenda to spell out.

At one point in the debate, Babbitt accused Gephardt of making "not a flip-flop but a triple-back somersault with a half twist on the issues."

Gephardt was savaged by his opponents for changing his stands on several issues and then complaining about Simon television spots that he said questioned his integrity.

Simon responded by defending the ads and asking, "which is the real Dick Gephardt?"

Gore wondered why Gephardt was so distressed over an examination of his record. "What Paul Simon has done is just spell out the record. You ought to answer on substance rather than take it as a personal attack."

Jackson demanded that the candidates discuss their records, and not indulge in "tit-for-tat" exchanges. "You have to have a tough mind and a thick skin to run for president," he said.

Pravda: Soviet ships tried to drive out American vessels

MOSCOW (R) — The Communist Party newspaper Pravda said Sunday that Soviet warships were trying to force American vessels out of Soviet waters when they collided in the Black Sea Friday.

The newspaper said the collisions occurred when the Soviet vessels acted on orders to approach and drive away the U.S. cruiser Yorktown and destroyer Caron.

The Soviet ships "started" forcing out — there is such a term among sailors — the Americans from Soviet territorial waters," Pravda said.

The U.S. Defence Department said Friday that two Soviet frigates had intentionally bumped the American ships in two incidents just inside the Soviet 12-mile limit. It said neither ship was seriously damaged.

But Soviet naval spokesman Rear-Admiral Nikolai Markov denied Saturday that the Soviet ships had deliberately rammed the American vessels.

He said the collision took place as a result of "dangerous manoeuvres" by the American vessels.

Pravda quoted the commander of one of the Soviet ships, Vladimir Bagdashin, as saying the Soviet vessels were obeying orders to oust the Americans.

"I went on the 16th (radio) channel, the international one, and warned them. They answered that they understood. They did not change their course or speed."

"We took a position between the ships and the coast and tried to signal that their course was dangerous," Bagdashin said.

"There was no effect. The decision had already been taken: It

was necessary to fulfil the order to force out the intruder, but it was not easy, at the speed of 18 to 20 knots to approach and drive (them) away," he told Pravda.

Bagdashin did not describe the actual collisions.

Britain said ready to take more U.S. bombers

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is ready to allow up to 60 more American F-111 nuclear-armed bombers to be stationed in Britain after the withdrawal of American intermediate-range missiles, the Sunday Times newspaper said.

A Defence Ministry spokesman told Reuters no decision had been taken on strengthening defences after cruise missiles are removed from two American bases here over the next five years.

"There is a nuclear planning group meeting (of NATO defence ministers) in the spring and it is possible this will be one of the things discussed," he added.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) leaders have expressed fears that December's Soviet-U.S. treaty abolishing nuclear missiles with a range between 500 and 5,500 kilometres could expose weaknesses in Western defences.

The treaty covers only ground-launched intermediate-range missiles, and would not encompass the F-111s, which are capable of hitting targets in the Soviet Union from their British bases.

Some 150 F-111s are currently based in Britain.

Indian army rounds up Tamil rebels

BATTICALOA, Sri Lanka (R) — Indian troops hunting separatist guerrillas in eastern Sri Lanka are ordering Tamil men to the stadium dominating Batticaloa town centre for interrogation.

Security sources said 19 suspected Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels were detained during a roundup of 1,500 Tamil men at the stadium Saturday.

An indefinite curfew imposed Friday in Batticaloa district continued as Indian soldiers pressed ahead Sunday with a house-to-house search through the town.

About 1,000 soldiers scoured the eastern side of the lagoon which divides the town early Sunday.

At a hotel they said one man could remain to protect women, children, foreigners and Sri Lank-

an visitors, while all the others went to the stadium for identification.

Indian military officials rejected a request from Batticaloa's Roman Catholic bishop to relax the curfew sufficiently to allow worshippers to attend mass.

The clergyman's house was searched Friday after Bishop Kingsley Swampillai and other priests were ordered out.

Laotians shoot down Thai plane

BANGKOK (AP) — Laotian gunners reportedly shot down a Thai plane that was on a reconnaissance mission over an embattled border area, state-run Radio Thailand said Sunday.

It was the second plane the Thais have reported lost in the battle for remote hills over which both countries have claimed sovereignty. An F-5E jet fighter-bomber was downed on Feb. 1.

Thailand has launched frequent air strikes to try to dislodge hundreds of Laotian soldiers entrenched in the hills, astride Thailand's Northern Phitsanulok province and Laos' Sayaboury province.

The radio said the OV-10 aircraft disappeared Saturday near hill 1428, one of the most fiercely contested areas.

A radio correspondent reporting from Phitsanulok quoted reports that said the plane was flying in Thai airspace when it was hit by anti-aircraft rounds fired from Laotian territory. The two crewmen parachuted to safety, the reports said.

The Thai government is preparing this week to receive a Laotian military delegation for what would be the first talks on resolving the border dispute, the bloodiest since clashes over three border hamlets in 1984.

Angola agrees to Cuban pullout if UNITA aid ends

LISBON (AP) — The Luanda government is ready to set a timetable for the total withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola if the United States and South Africa agree to halt aid to the rebel movement UNITA, Angolan Foreign Minister Afonso Van-Dunen said Saturday.

The official Angolan news agency, ANGOP, quoted Van-Dunen as saying Angola and the United States would take up the issue of support for UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) at future negotiating sessions. No dates have been disclosed.

In a separate development Saturday, UNITA claimed it shot down a MiG-21 jet fighter Tuesday and sabotaged a MiG-23 plane that subsequently crashed on takeoff Friday.

The rebels also claimed in a statement distributed in Lisbon they had killed 72 government

soldiers and eight Cubans in fighting Feb. 5 to Wednesday and seized 53 weapons in an ambush of a military supply column during the same period.

Van-Dunen said Angola had agreed in principle to a total withdrawal of an estimated 400,000 Cuban soldiers from Angola during talks Jan. 28-29 in the capital with U.S. and Cuban envoys, according to the ANGOP report, monitored in Lisbon.

The talks were attended by Jorge Risquet, a politician member of Cuba's ruling Communist Party. Angola previously had said it would consider only a partial withdrawal of the Cubans from southern Angola.

Cuban soldiers and Soviet-bloc military advisers support Angola in its war against the U.S. and South Africa-backed UNITA rebels who have been fighting since 1975 to force the Marxist government to share power.

Several killed in pre-election fighting in southern Philippines

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (R) — Several people were killed when heavy fighting broke out Sunday between followers of two Muslim mayoral candidates on the eve of special elections on a remote southern Philippine island, the military said.

An unknown number were also wounded in the clash between supporters of pro-government candidate Muzidza Abdurajik and his woman rival, Riza Tan, outside Maibung town in Sulu, 128 kilometres southwest of Zamboanga City.

Troops were rushed to break up the battle but failed to reach the area because of heavy gunfire from the warring groups, one of which was firing mortars, initial military reports said.

The military has deployed five battalions of battle-hardened

troops in Sulu to prevent bloodshed during Monday's election for a provincial governor, eight town mayors, and scores of council seats.

Sulu, which has a long tradition of political violence, was among 11 "hot spot" provinces where local elections, held across the Philippines on Jan. 18, were postponed because of tension.

Separate fighting also broke out Sunday in the Sulu town of Luuk between supporters of rival mayoral candidates, but the military said it had quelled the violence there.

Sulu Provincial Commander Colonel Romeo Abandan said Sunday's fighting was sparked by intense political rivalries between politicians backed by armed groups counting the support of several hundred men each.

Contra leader denies Panamanian connection

WASHINGTON (AP) — Adolfo Calero, a leader of U.S.-backed guerrillas, in Nicaragua, denied Saturday that his troops trained in Panama or received funds from the Panamanian government.

"We never had anyone training in Panama," Calero said. "I don't know anything about it. We have absolutely nothing to do with Panama, nor with the Panamanian government."

"We have never received any money from Panamanian sources," he said.

Calero's comments, in an interview after appealing to a convention of American conservatives to send donations to his cause, was

his first reaction to congressional testimony Wednesday by a former top Panamanian intelligence officer, Jose I. Blandon.

Blandon told a Senate foreign relations subcommittee that Panama provided military training for the rebels after a 1985 request from then-White House aide Colonel Oliver North.

In addition, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the Panamanian military leader whose ouster President Ronald Reagan's administration is urging, said last week that he and another former White House aide, Rear Admiral John Poindexter, discussed the possibility of an American invasion of Nicaragua.

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Pope deplores aid transfer barriers

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II Saturday deplored the ease of international arms trafficking and the difficulty in organising food and other humanitarian relief operations. The Pope's remark was in a speech to a group of bishops from Sudan making a periodic visit to the Vatican. John Paul noted the serious refugee problem in Sudan and the African country's need for humanitarian aid. "This whole question manifests the serious imbalance existing within the international community, where it is sometimes difficult or impossible to organise or deliver needed emergency food assistance and set up educational and health programmes," the Pope said, speaking in English. "... And yet, the trade and shipment of arms knows no frontiers and goes on without limitations," he said.

Berlin tabloid reports Nazi document theft

WEST BERLIN (R) — Up to 80,000 documents are missing from American-run archives that house millions of Nazi files, and they could have been used to blackmail people, the Berliner Morgenpost newspaper said Sunday. A spokesman for the U.S. mission in West Berlin called the figure speculative but declined to comment further. But he confirmed American officials were working with the divided city's justice department on a criminal inquiry at the Berlin Document Centre and added: "We take our responsibilities at the centre very seriously." The Morgenpost said that over the years sensitive and secret records of some of the Third Reich's most important figures had been stolen from the centre, which is based in a former SS listening post in the quiet West Berlin suburb of Dahlem. The United States has run the archives, which contain some 30 million Nazi Party and SS files and other personnel records, since the end of World War II. "According to the knowledge of West German investigators at least 80,000 in part top secret documents have evidently been distributed around the globe," the newspaper said. It said unnamed people had made millions of dollars by using the stolen Nazi era documents to blackmail "prominent personalities." It did not elaborate.

Alabama worker's hand reattached

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama (AP) — It could be months before an ironworker learns whether he will regain the use of a hand torn off in an industrial accident and joined to his abdomen for 2½ months to save it, doctors say. Twelve doctors reattached Mike Thomas' hand to his arm during 22½ hours of surgery that ended Friday. Thomas, 31, of Cleveland, Alabama, was in serious condition in an intensive care unit at University Hospital. "To our knowledge, this is the first time a severed limb has been kept (alive) this way" in the United States, said hospital spokesman Hank Black. Even if the surgery turns out successful, the nerve damage to the hand was such that Thomas "will never be able to do the type work he did before," said one of the surgeons, Dr. Paul Sauer. "Hopefully, we will have a hand which will at least have enough feeling to serve as a helper to Thomas' other hand, and one that is cosmetically superior to a prosthesis," he said. Sauer and another surgeon, Dr. Michael Miller, said it might be months before Thomas learns whether he will be able to use his left hand at all. If the reattachment doesn't work, they said, the hand might have to be amputated. "We think that we can achieve adequate circulation to the hand and that the bone will grow together, but how well the nerves and muscles will regenerate is the question," Sauer said. Thomas lost the hand, wrist and a small part of his forearm when he grabbed a cable to break a 21-metre fall from a girder while he was working at a church Nov. 24. The cable wrapped around his forearm and pulled the hand off.

Former performing arts school burns

NEW YORK (AP) — A five-alarm fire Saturday consumed the landmark high school that inspired the hit movie and TV show "Fame," injuring 30 of the 200 firefighters battling the blaze in freezing temperatures and high winds. The third, fourth and fifth floors and a section of the roof of the six-story former High School for the Performing Arts in Manhattan collapsed, forcing officials to pull all firefighters out of the building, said spokesman Efrain Parrilla. Some firefighters were sent back into the building about two hours later, because there was no other way to get to the blaze, Parrilla said. The fire at what is now Liberty High School near Times Square was declared under control nearly five hours after it was reported, Parrilla said. Four firefighters were sent to hospitals with minor injuries, Parrilla said. Twenty-six others were treated at the scene for sprains, cuts and other minor injuries.

Berlin Film Festival underway

BERLIN (AP) — Thousands of filmgoers packed theatres throughout West Berlin Saturday as the 35th International Berlin Film Festival kicked off its first full day of film showings. More than 60 films were scheduled to be shown Saturday, among them American director Woody Allen's "September" and Oliver Stone's "Wall Street." The festival was officially opened Friday night by West Berlin Mayor Eberhard Diepgen. The official opening ceremonies were followed by the showing of West German Director Reinhard Hauff's subway musical, "Line No. 1." The 11-day festival will feature 750 films from 48 countries. Personalities to attend the festival include Cher, Karl Malden, Alec Guinness, Richard Attenborough, Omar Sharif, Jean-Luc Godard, Chuck Berry and Eric Clapton.

Biden recovering from brain surgery

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senator Joseph R. Biden Jr. was alert and talking with family members Saturday after undergoing surgery to correct an aneurysm in an artery supplying blood to his brain. The 45-year-old Delaware Democrat dropped out of a bid for the Democratic presidential nomination last year after being accused of plagiarising speeches from a British politician. Biden was "progressing satisfactorily" Saturday morning, and was "as comfortable as possible," Walter Reed Army Medical Centre spokesman Pete Esker said. Biden underwent a surgical procedure known as a "clipping" to correct the aneurysm, which is a sac formed by local enlargement of the weakened wall of an artery. Pete Smith, an aide to Biden, said Biden was listed in "seriously ill" condition but was expected to suffer no significant after-effects from the surgery.

Chinese schools fine pupils for love affairs

PEKING (R) — Schools in Hubei have introduced stiff fines for pupils who embark on love affairs which may harm their studies, the China Daily said Saturday. The price of illicit romance at one school in the Central China province is 40 yuan (\$11), nearly two weeks' pay for a Chinese worker, the newspaper said. Teenage couples who stayed out too long together after dark could be fined 15 yuan (\$4). The fines, also imposed for other misbehaviour, caused "fear and trepidation" among pupils, some of whom had been forced to pay 100 yuan (\$27) in six months, it said.

Airplane plate thrower jailed

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A man who was apparently dissatisfied with his airplane dinner landed in jail after allegedly throwing his plate at an attendant during a flight. Matthew Wallis, 45, of New York City, was arrested for investigation of misdemeanor battery Thursday when his American Airlines flight arrived at Los Angeles International Airport, said L.A. Police Sergeant Joe Arreola. Wallis was placed under citizen's arrest by flight attendant Sue Roen, 43, of Los Angeles after she was struck by the plate, Arreola said. "The suspect was reportedly angry about the food served to him, and became verbally abusive to the stewardess," Arreola said. No one was reported injured aboard American Flight 209 from New York City, the sergeant said. Wallis was released after paying \$500 in bail, Arreola said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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THE KING IS DEAD

East-West vulnerable. East deals
NORTH
♠ A Q 9
♥ 10 8 2
♦ A K Q
♣ J 10 8

WEST EAST
♠ K 8 6 4 2 ♠ 7 3
♥ 7 5 3 ♥ A Q J 8 4 3
♦ 7 5 3 ♦ 9 2
♠ A Q 9 6 4 ♠ 8 7 5

SOUTH
♠ 10 5
♥ K 9 7 6
♦ J 10 8 6 4
♣ K 2

The bidding:
East South West North
2 ♣ Pass Pass Dble
Pass 2 NT Pass 3 NT

Opening lead: Six of ♠

"Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury:
It is obvious that there is no case against my client, West. The fact that East is suing him for malpractice is sheer vindictiveness — East refuses to give South credit for thoughtful declarer play."

"Let me recap the events of the day. My client admits that East had a classic weak-two opening bid at any vulnerability. He concedes that three no trump is a normal contract for North-South to reach under the circumstances."

"My client found the good opening lead of a club — even East is

prepared to concede that his partner could not lead his suit. After dummy's ten won, declarer realized that West had to be void in hearts. So South cashed the table's three high diamonds and, since leading a heart would mean instant defeat and since he had no entry to his hand, declarer led a club to the king."

"The defendant cashed his club tricks as declarer shuffled hearts, but he was then forced to exit with a spade. Declarer ran that to his ten and made the rest of the tricks. Instead of this frivolous lawsuit, East should be congratulating declarer on his fine effort at trick five."

"In deference to learned counsel's excellent presentation of the facts, East does not contest that declarer performed most creditably. However, we do insist that West is fully to blame for the catastrophe that ensued. Instead of exiting with a low spade after cashing his clubs, West should have played the king!"

"After winning the ace, declarer would have had a choice of ways to go down. He could cash dummy's spades and have no way to reach his hand, or he could win the second spade in hand with the two and then be cut off from the table. Either way, declarer would be stranded with a losing heart at the end."

"Guilty as charged!"

Black protesters hold fast at Massachusetts university

AMHERST, Massachusetts (AP) — Black students occupying a building at the University of Massachusetts to protest alleged racial harassment stockpiled food and sleeping bags Saturday, vowing to stay until their demands are met.

Protesters refused to meet with Chancellor Joseph D. Duffey when he went to the building, New Africa House, Friday afternoon and cancelled a meeting scheduled for Saturday morning. Duffey said the school would take no reprisals against the protesters. "They're not disrupting anything, yet," he said.

But he declined to outline what action might be taken if the building is still occupied when school reopens Tuesday.

Rudy Kriger, a protester, said Saturday afternoon there were about 125 minority protesters in the building.

The students took over the building Friday after talks with Duffey on a list of demands, which include prosecution of five white students accused of attacking two blacks after a dormitory party last weekend.

The students also asked Duffey to suspend a campus police officer who arranged a police lineup of black men after white and minority students complained of

harassment, and called for New Africa House to be returned to use as a cultural centre for the black community.

But Arthur Hilson, head of the campus police, denied Saturday that any such lineup occurred.

The protesters, who have declined to talk publicly, are not affiliated with any group and numbered 150 at the height of the takeover Friday night.

Within hours of receiving the demands Friday, Duffey issued a statement condemning racism and asked campus police to no longer use lineups.

The head of campus police met Saturday with students and black community leaders "to line up creature comforts" in case of arrests.

"I want to be prepared to do something in a sensitive, caring and humane way," said Hilson, a black Baptist minister who came to the police department from the career planning office amid criticism of police handling of a 1986 racial clash.

The protesters cited racial tensions that have surfaced at the school since 10 students were injured in a racial clash on Oct. 27, 1986, following the Boston Red Sox loss to the New York Mets in the final game of the world series.